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## Fighting the elements

Soldiers brave frigid conditions for live-fire training in Germany

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Soldiers shoot during a live-fire exercise in Baumholder, Germany, earlier this month.

Erich Backes  
Courtesy of the U.S. Army

## S. Korea, US sign \$920 million defense cost-sharing deal

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea agreed to pay \$920 million this year in a new defense cost-sharing deal with the U.S. that was signed Sunday, lifting a strain on the alliance just in time for the next U.S.-North Korean summit.

The U.S., meanwhile, reaffirmed the need for a "stable U.S. military deployment" and offered assurances that it has

no plans to change the number of forces on the divided peninsula, the Foreign Ministry said in a news release.

The provisional contract, known as the Special Measures Agreement, was inked nearly six weeks after the previous five-year accord expired.

Negotiators held 10 rounds of talks last year but remained deadlocked over President Donald Trump's demand that South Korea pay significantly more.

The compromise calls for South Korea to pay 1.0389 trillion won, or \$920 million, this year to offset the cost of maintaining some 28,500 American troops, officials said. Seoul paid 960 billion won last year.

That's short of the \$1.5 billion per year that Trump reportedly had demanded at one point. But the two sides also agreed to a one-year agreement instead of the usual five-year time frame, so negotiators will have to return to the table soon.

The deal — which still must be ratified by South Korea's National Assembly — resolves a dispute between the longtime allies at a crucial time, with a second U.S.-North Korea summit due to take place at the end of the month in Hanoi, Vietnam.

"We have a number of domestic steps that we need to go through," Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said as she met with the top U.S. negotiator Timothy Bets.

SEE DEAL ON PAGE 6

MILITARY

# Linguist killed in Syria posthumously promoted

By CLAUDIA GRISALES  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Shannon M. Kent, the Navy linguist killed in Syria last month in a suicide bomb blast, was posthumously promoted Friday, the service announced.

Kent, 35, a mother of two, has been advanced to senior chief petty officer. She was a chief petty officer when she was killed Jan. 16 at a restaurant in the Syrian city of Manbij. It was her fifth combat tour.

"The Navy approved a request for Kent's posthumous advancement effective the date of her death," the service said Friday in a statement.

Kent is slated to be interred at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia in the coming weeks. The announcement of her promotion was made during a memorial service Friday at the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel in Annapolis, Md., said Army Staff Sgt. Ali Hassoon, a longtime Kent family friend who attended the memorial.

Earlier last week, the Navy said it made several changes to a flawed commissioning and waiver process that led to Kent's deployment.

Last fall, Kent was slated to attend a clinical psychology doctoral program in lieu of the deployment. But the Navy reversed the move because she previously had cancer and rejected her waiver applications, and she received orders to deploy to Syria instead.

She was killed less than two months later.

"I have reviewed and discussed every aspect of the policies and processes in place during Shannon's application to become a clinical psychologist," Adm. William Moran, vice chief of naval operations, wrote in a Feb. 5 letter to the Kent family. "There were many shortcomings in Shannon's case, mainly in our communications throughout and in fundamental flaws in our waiver and appeal process — I offer no excuses."

In his letter, Moran said several changes installed by Navy officials will give highest waiver consideration to deployed sailors,



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

**Navy linguist Shannon M. Kent has been posthumously promoted to senior chief petty officer after her death last month in a bomb attack in Syria.**

establish a standardized appeal process with an option of seeking a second medical opinion, require peer review of waivers to boost quality assurance and consistency, and require all medical authorities operate on the same software system to ensure continuity.

The changes came less than two weeks after the Kent family requested the move in a Jan. 24 letter to Moran.

Moran said the four new rule changes are now reflected within provisions of Chapter 15 of the Navy's Manual of Medical Department, which covers physical standards for medical examinations and lists several health conditions, including cancer, that can disqualify servicemembers from receiving a commission.

Kent's husband and father to their two

**'The Navy approved a request for [Shannon] Kent's posthumous advancement effective the date of her death.'**

U.S. Navy

toddler sons said the family was satisfied with the moves.

"The Navy has done all they can and moved rather quickly," Joe Kent, 38, said Wednesday. They "changed as much of the commissioning process and waiver process as they can in their capacity as an individual service."

Now, a fight remains for the family to change a larger, overarching Defense Department rule that thwarted Kent's plans to become an officer.

The Department of Defense Instruction 6130.03, the "Medical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction into the Military Services," requires servicemembers meet medical standards reserved for joining the service that are higher than the requirements for remaining an active servicemember.

In Kent's case, that DOD provision ruled her out from the program because of previous thyroid cancer in 2016. Her thyroid was removed and the cancer was cured that year, followed by several scans showing she was clear of the illness, her family said.

Lawmakers from Kent's home states of New York and Maryland wrote top Pentagon officials demanding they explain how they would update the Defense Department and Navy medical rules and waiver process that led to Kent's deployment.

Kent, along with 18 others, including another U.S. servicemember, a Defense Intelligence Agency civilian and a Defense Department contractor, were killed in the Jan. 16 blast in Syria. Kent was the first female U.S. servicemember killed in Syria since the U.S.-led coalition's campaign against Islamic State began there in late 2014.

The Pine Plains, N.Y., native enlisted in the military in December 2003 shortly after high school, fueled by the 9/11 attacks and her service-oriented family. She spoke seven languages, including four dialects of Arabic.

Last year, Kent was slated to attend the Navy's doctorate psychology program at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md. Kent wanted to attend the psychology program so she could help servicemembers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, her husband has said. With that, she could also be closer to her children because there would be less chance that she would deploy into combat zones.

Kent got initial Navy clearance to attend the program in early February 2018, but they reversed plans by the end of the month and she was deployed to Syria in late November.

Kent was part of a small, secretive cryptologic intelligence community. She was based out of Fort Meade, Md., and part of the Navy's Cryptologic Warfare Activity 66, a unit within Cryptologic Warfare Group 6 that focuses on national, strategic and tactical level intelligence, military officials have said.

She was killed doing intelligence legwork as part of larger efforts to track remnants of ISIS, her husband said.

Kent was due to return to the United States by April and hoped to attend Officer Development School in June followed by academic studies as part of her commissioning program in August.

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## PACIFIC

# Rise of the machine

## Okinawa Marines expand 3D-printing capabilities

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The III Marine Expeditionary Force has new heroes in the battle against government bureaucracy and wasteful spending — two Marines armed with a LulzBot TAZ 6 3D printer, which retails for less than \$3,000.

In the military, 3D printing is nothing new; the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center has been using 3D printing since the mid-1990s.

However, in the hands of Marine Sgt. Adrian Willis and Lance Cpl. Tracey Taylor, both with 7th Communications Battalion, the LulzBot TAZ 6 has saved the Marine Corps in Okinawa thousands of dollars and streamlined logistics and supply lines.

"I am so big on this because I legitimately see it as the future — not necessarily a future I will see, but the future of this is going to be amazing," said the 7th Communications Battalion's communications maintenance chief, Master Sgt. Michael Johnson.

"I believe that the future is being able to take a system like this and metal filaments, plastic filaments, rubber filaments. [Marines] walk in the door and say, 'Hey, this part broke,'" he said. "I look at them and say 'OK, come back in 2½ hours,' and in 2½ hours, they have that part."

Willis and Taylor have been doing just that from a small, barren room in their communications shop at Camp Hansen. As word has spread to different units around the island, they are getting more and more requests to put their skills to use.

Willis — who hails from Las Vegas — learned to use computer-aided design software in high school, he said last week as the 3D printer whirled and jolted behind him. He was exposed to 3D printing for the first time at 1st Maintenance Battalion in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Intrigued by the possibilities, he began 3D printing at home. When he arrived at the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit as a computer and telephone technician in November 2017, Willis was selected by his command to work with 3D printers.

He immediately began to make a name for himself. He made a replacement bumper for an F-35B Lightning II's landing gear door that had been worn out.

The 15-cent plastic piece saved the Marine Corps from having to order an entire new door at \$60,000.

It also saved the time it takes for a replacement to arrive.

The part was used during the deployment in spring 2018 by Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 and is still being produced by the 31st MEU today.

Willis said he arrived at the 7th Communications Battalion in November as a computer technician. Johnson already had a rudimentary 3D printing setup in the shop.

Willis immediately made suggestions like using different drafting programs and different printing materials and even printing at different temperatures. He had a greater institutional knowledge as far as what was possible, which improved their capabilities immediately.

"We're moving by leaps and bounds," Johnson said.

The process begins with someone coming to the unit with an idea. If approved, Willis tries to find an open source — or free and modifiable — plan online. He then alters the existing design to meet the needs of the customer.

Once the design is uploaded, the printer sets to work making the desired piece



PHOTOS BY MATT BURKE/Stars and Stripes

Marine Sgt. Adrian Willis, of the 7th Communications Battalion, watches the unit's LulzBot TAZ 6 3D printer as it prints a generator cover on Feb. 5 at Camp Hansen.



A LulzBot TAZ 6 3D printer at Camp Hansen is saving thousands of dollars.

using a spool of purple polylactic acid material, which is cheap and easy to get, American-made, organic and sustainable, Willis said.

The material is made from corn starch. Simple post-process modifications can bring it up to traditional plastic standards. Willis has made a spacer for the Hawk-eye III Lite, a critical component of the Expeditionary Command and Control Suite Satellite Communication system, Marine officials said. The piece cannot be purchased individually from the manufacturer, so an entire new section of the equipment was being purchased.

He has made dust boot covers for radios, parts for a fuel filter that has allowed for the recycling of fuel barrels, and electrical

covers for generators.

"This is a simple electrical cover but it keeps water out of the generator," Johnson said as the printer quickly produced one of the pieces.

"If it's not on there, the generator can't be used in the rain. The company doesn't make this. The company makes a \$2,000 panel that has to have this piece of plastic on it."

Willis has also started printing molds to make parts, which saves even more time. He estimates that he has personally saved the Marines more than \$200,000.

While printers that do a varying degree of things, using varied materials, are spread about the Marine Corps and the island, Willis has been working to get them



Willis holds a radio dust boot cover, left, and a mold for the piece that was made using the unit's 3D printer.

all to talk to each other.

He has also been working with the III MEF's G-4, or supply and logistics, to standardize processes and procedures through the Marine Corps' SharePoint Site, and he has been training other Marines in his office.

The more word has spread, the more units have come to them for help making things. It doesn't always work out, as certain pieces and parts are contractually obligated or proprietary. They also turn people down if they request parts that could involve any kind of safety issue, Johnson said.

Where it can and will go from here is anyone's guess. Willis dreams big and is pushing the Marines to do the same.

"The importance of 3D printing, I don't think, has been fully realized yet," Johnson said.

"This is going to be what the future of the Marine Corps is," Willis added.

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## MILITARY



PHOTOS BY ERICH BACKES/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment from Vilseck, Germany, engage during a live-fire exercise on Range 35 at the Baumholder Military Training Area in Baumholder, Germany, on Feb. 4.

# Pushing through cold weather training

Soldiers bundle up for marksmanship exercises at frigid range in Germany

BY MARTIN EGNASH  
Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — Trying to hit the center of a target three football fields away with an M-4 is hard enough, but soldiers with the Army's 2nd Cavalry Regiment are also adjusting their marksmanship techniques to contend with the frigid cold and snow in Germany.

The troops are participating in Operation Kriegsader, designed to improve the capabilities of platoon-sized elements in tactics and marksmanship.

They have had to deal with below-freezing temperatures since they arrived last week.

"The weather is treacherous," said 1st Lt. Robert Bannon, a pla-



Soldiers prepare for a situational training exercise in Area B of the Baumholder Military Training Area during Operation Kriegsader.

toon leader. "Snowy, very cold ... we've definitely had a lot of challenges with the elements, and we've had to coach our subordinate soldiers in how to survive in these conditions."

The soldiers are wearing extra warming layers during the exercise. That makes precision marksmanship much harder,

Bannon said.

Dismounted troops engaged enemy armor targets on the snowy range with anti-tank weapons, while their Stryker armored vehicles backed them up with machine guns and 30 mm cannons, unique to the regiment's Strykers.

After the marksmanship train-



Soldiers prepare for a live-fire exercise on Range 35 at the Baumholder Military Training Area.

ing, the soldiers moved into the war games portion of the exercise, in which they used the snow to their advantage to camouflage their positions and vehicles.

The soldiers get to warm up once they get back inside their Strykers.

"The heating system inside a Stryker is actually very good,"

Staff Sgt. Raymond Barnett said. "The heating system starts at the bottom and warms your feet first, which is always our priority when we're hiking through snow."

"It's a big morale booster every time a cold soldier comes back into a Stryker to heat up."

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## MILITARY

# Sailor's conviction over not revealing HIV status upheld

By NANCY MONTGOMERY  
Stars and Stripes

A sailor's conviction for sexual assault because he failed to tell women he was HIV-positive before having sex with them has been affirmed by the military's highest court.

On Thursday, the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces unanimously affirmed a lower court's opinion that Petty Officer 2nd Class Lamar Forbes' convictions for sexual assault by bodily harm were correct. Because he didn't disclose he had the virus that causes AIDS, the women could be given consent and were therefore assaulted, the court ruled.

Forbes pleaded guilty at a Norfolk, Va., court-martial but subsequently appealed both his conviction and eight-year prison sentence. The guilty plea and sentence were affirmed last year by the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Appeals.

Forbes tested positive for HIV in 2012, according to court documents, and was counseled to refrain from sexual activity without first advising prospective

sexual partners that he carried the virus.

But from July 2013 to June 2015 he had unprotected sexual intercourse with four different women without telling them he was HIV-positive, the court documents say.

"One of these women, LK, informed Forbes that she was taking medication that weakened her immune system as a result of a recent kidney transplant. The appellant assured her that he 'wouldn't do anything to ... jeopardize it,' yet had sex with her anyway without disclosing his status.

Another woman told Forbes she had an HIV-positive family member and suggested that they get tested before having sex. But the appellant informed her that he was clean, the documents said.

"These two situations betray the callousness and deceit of the appellant, and are particularly aggravating," the Navy-Marine court said.

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# Joint Base Lewis-McChord taking precautions amid measles outbreak

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The spread of measles in southern Washington state has officials at Joint Base Lewis-McChord taking precautions to protect its servicemembers and families from the outbreak.

"I know our pediatrics department began to engage through social media, Facebook live events with our beneficiaries regarding questions associated with measles exposures and best way to prevent them," said Lt. Col. Rodd Marcum, a doctor and chief of preventive medicine at Madigan Army Medical Center, which is part of the joint base.

The medical center is the second-largest military treatment facility in Army medicine, with an enrolled patient population of about 105,000, according to Jay Ebesson, a spokesman for the medical center.

Lewis-McChord is near Tacoma, about two hours north of Clark County, where the public health department had confirmed 51 cases and 13 more suspected cases as of Thursday. One case was confirmed in King County, next to Pierce County, where Lewis-McChord is located, of a man in his 50s who said he had traveled to the city of Vancouver in Clark County, according to the county's public health department website.

Seventy-nine cases of measles

have been confirmed in 10 states in just over a week, according to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Since the outbreak, the medical center has worked to inform their health care providers in the hospital and to outside clinics. The preventive medicine department has also been communicating with state and local health departments to monitor the outbreak's developments.

The installation has "very rigorous protocols to prevent communicable disease outbreaks within our population," Marcum said.

Those protocols include making certain children in day care centers who show signs of a fever or rash get medical care and don't infect others.

Measles is a highly contagious virus that is spread through coughing and sneezing, according to the CDC's website. The virus can live in the air for up to two hours after an infected person has sneezed or coughed. People can become sick if they touch their eyes, nose or mouth after coming in contact with contaminated surfaces or spaces.

"Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, 90 percent of the people close to that person who are not immune will also become infected," according to the CDC's website.

The majority of people who have been infected by measles

in the Washington state outbreak were not vaccinated. The military follows the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' recommendations, which provides guidance on the use of vaccines in the United States.

"So when you think of our active-duty servicemembers, each of them has been confirmed to have the appropriate vaccination and immunity against measles, mumps and rubella," Marcum said.

Their families are given the same CDC recommendations for routine adult and childhood vaccinations.

There have also been no suspected cases of measles at Lewis-McChord, Marcum said. However, there is always a risk of the measles outbreak spreading to the base because of how infectious it is, he said.

"But at the same time, we have such high rates of vaccination that it makes me reassured that it's unlikely to have a profound impact at Joint Base Lewis-McChord," Marcum said.

Joint Base Lewis-McChord is home to 1 Corps and the 62nd Air-Lift Wing, supporting a population of more than 40,000 active-duty, Reserve and National Guard servicemembers as well as 14,000 civilian workers, according to its website.

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# Airman in crash that killed German teen near Ramstein

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
AND MARCUS KLOECKNER  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A young airman new to Ramstein and the Air Force was the driver of a car that struck and killed a German teenager in a head-on crash Wednesday night near the base, German and base officials said Friday.

The crash occurred about 6:45 p.m. on the L367, a two-lane road between Mackenbach and Weilerbach, only a few minutes drive from Ramstein Air Base.

The 20-year-old airman first class was driving a Chevrolet with his wife in the direction of Weilerbach when he passed another car, according to the Weilerbach Fire Department.

After passing the car, the airman failed to return to his lane and crashed head-on into a Piaggio Ape, a three-wheeled light commercial vehicle with a Vespa scooter as a base. The impact of the crash sent the vehicle flying over a scooter that was driving behind it, where it then crashed into a car, a Kaiserslautern police statement said. The 17-year-old driver, a student at a local German high school, was thrown from the Piaggio and died at the



Courtesy of the Weilerbach Fire Department

**A German teenager on a three-wheel vehicle died Wednesday evening on a stretch of road outside Ramstein Air Base, Germany, after being hit head-on by an airman stationed at the base.**

scene, police said.

The airman and his wife, a civilian, were treated for injuries at a local German hospital and released Thursday, a base official said.

The couple was still in temporary lodging, being new to Ramstein for what was the airman's first assignment in the Air Force, the official said.

Officials did not identify the airman or the victim.

The commander of the 86th Airlift Wing, Brig. Gen. Mark

August, called Weilerbach Mayor Anja Pfeiffer on Thursday to express sympathies, according to base officials.

August also released a statement relaying "our deepest condolences."

"As a parent of a 17-year-old and 18-year-old myself, I can only imagine the pain felt by another parent at the loss of their child. This is a tragedy for our community, and we will work with our German partners to investigate this accident," he said.

Base officials said the crash is under investigation and security forces are working with German police.

Udo Strasser, the chief of Weilerbach's fire department, told Stars and Stripes on Friday that the accident was especially tragic for firefighters called to the scene since they knew the German teen personally. The stretch of road where the crash occurred is known to be dangerous, he said.

The center line at the site indicates a passing zone, but the road is curved, which limits visibility.

On Friday afternoon, family and friends of the German teen killed in the wreck gathered by a roadside memorial of fresh flowers and candles near the crash site, hugging and crying. In the group were the teen's grandmother and two younger sisters. They said their brother's name was David and he lived in Weilerbach. A framed photograph of a boy on a motorbike was placed at the memorial.

"He was the best person I ever met," said his 15-year-old sister, Miriam, declining to give her last name. "He didn't deserve to die."

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## PACIFIC

## Deal: Talks tested Trump's insistence allies should pay more

## FROM FRONT PAGE

"I think the response so far has been quite positive. Of course, there are some points of criticism as well," she added. "We will have to deal with them but I think at this point, we were able to close the gap on the total amount."

South Korea has hosted American troops since the two countries fought together against the communist-backed North in the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

President Moon Jae-in has been credited with playing a mediator role in persuading North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to engage in diplomacy aimed at ridding his country of nuclear weapons.

"The United States government realizes that Korea does a lot for our alliance and for peace and stability in this region," a Betts said. "The SMA is only a small part of that. But it's an important part, and we are pleased that our consultations resulted in an agreement that I think will strengthen transparency and strengthen and deepen our cooperation in the alliance."

## Alliance test

The burden-sharing talks were a test for Trump's insistence that U.S. allies should pay more for their own defense. He also has insisted that NATO members increase their contributions, and the issue is expected to arise soon in Japan in talks on funding the 50,000 U.S. troops based there.

Trump has complained that maintaining troops in South Korea is too expensive and said in the past that he would like to



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

South Korean protesters hold banners during a rally as police officers stand guard near the Foreign Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, on Sunday when South Korea and the United States struck a new deal on how much South Korea should pay for the U.S. military presence on its soil.

bring them home. But he insists that troop numbers are not part of the equation in nuclear talks with the North.

When asked about the possibility in a recent interview with CBS, Trump said he has "no plans" to withdraw troops from the peninsula and hasn't even discussed the issue.

However, he added, "maybe someday," reiterating that he would like to save the money.

Brinkmanship is common in the cost-sharing talks, which have taken place since 1991, but the U.S.-led effort to persuade North Korea to give up its weapons raised the stakes.

Trump surprised Seoul and many of his own aides when he announced after his first summit with North Korea on June 12 that he was suspending joint war games with South Korea — which he called "very expensive" and "provocative."

Many analysts expressed concern he may make a similar gesture in his upcoming talks with Kim.

The next round of annual joint military exercises, called Key Resolve/Foal Eagle, is due to be held in the spring, although officials have said they won't announce a date until after the Vietnam summit.

North Korea hates the drills,

which it considers a rehearsal for an invasion. The North and its main backer, China, also would like to see the U.S. military presence removed from their doorstep.

## Military costs

South Korea insists it pays a fair share of the some \$2 billion per year needed to keep the troops in the country, with funds mainly used for salaries of nearly 9,000 local employees, who provide food and administrative services and other logistical needs.

U.S. Forces Korea, the main command, said in its Strategic Digest that Seoul paid about 41 percent of the cost.

The South also paid the bulk of the more than \$11 billion cost for expanding the Camp Humphreys Army garrison as part of a long-delayed plan to relocate most Americans south of Seoul.

The U.S. military also enjoys less tangible benefits, including rent-free land for its bases and an exemption that allows government-operated vehicles to use expressways toll-free.

Services had not been interrupted thanks to reserve funds, but USFK had warned the Korean Employees' Union that it would have to put local staff on unpaid leave beginning in mid-April if a deal wasn't reached.

The allies also missed the Dec. 31 deadline in 2013, but they managed to reach a deal a few weeks later when South Korea agreed to increase its contribution by 5.8 percent, with a 4 percent cap on the inflation rate.

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## Ties between Japan, S. Korea fray as US leaves alliance unintended

By SIMON DENYER

The Washington Post

TOKYO — Leaders have turned their backs on each other. They have traded barbs. Military and business ties are fraying, and the media are up in arms.

Relations between Japan and South Korea, the most important U.S. allies in the Asia-Pacific region, are unraveling fast.

While the leaders of both countries share the blame, the Trump administration has taken its eye off the ball, experts say. That has allowed spats to grow that could undermine U.S. efforts to sustain a coalition of Asian democracies and contain China.

Japan ruled over South Korea from the beginning of the 20th century until the end of World War II, and Seoul and Tokyo's complicated history has always loomed large in the background.

But the rancor that has soured relations lately is among the worst in generations.

"The relationship between South Korea and Japan is suffer-

ing a compound fracture unprecedented in the five decades since the two countries established diplomatic relations," said Shin Kak-soo, a former South Korean ambassador to Japan.

He added, "The Trump administration did not pay attention to the alliance."

The rift came after a South Korean Supreme Court decision in October ordering a Japanese steel producer to compensate Korean workers forced into manual labor during Japanese colonial rule, but the root of the crisis runs much deeper and its effects have reverberated in all directions since.

In November, South Korea shut down a foundation established to help care for the Korean women — commonly known as "comfort women" — forced into sexual slavery during World War II in Japanese military brothels. The foundation was funded by Japan as part of a 2015 deal intended to put the issue to rest.

Then Tokyo went public with accusations that a South Korean warship had locked its fire-control radar onto a Japanese patrol plane, a move seen as a precursor to actually firing.

Seoul denied the accusation and countered with the charge that the Japanese plane had been flying dangerously low.

Japan's conservative Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korea's liberal President Moon Jae-in come from opposite ends of the ideological spectrum.

In South Korea, Abe is an unpopular figure, seen as reluctant to express genuine remorse for Japan's behavior during its colonial rule over the peninsula.

In Japan, Moon is seen as the latest in a long line of South Korean leaders who have exploited popular resentment of Japan to shore up their own flagging popularity and reneged on agreements reached by previous governments.

Tokyo says the Supreme Court decision violates a 1965 deal establishing diplomatic relations, under which Japan gave South Korea much-needed economic aid as compensation for forced labor.

But if Japan takes a legalistic position, then many South Koreans are more concerned with what they see as justice, said Shin Moon himself was a human rights lawyer who once repre-

sented claimants in a case against Mitsubishi over forced labor.

Liberals in South Korea tend to see the 1965 agreement as an unequal treaty imposed by Japan on a weak country still recovering from the ravages of war, led by military strongman Park Chung-hee, who trained in the Japanese puppet state in Manchuria during the final stages of World War II.

To outsiders, the antipathy between the two countries — both free market democracies with close relationships to the West — can come as a surprise.

But the tragedy of the current crisis, according to Yasushi Kudo, of the Japanese think tank Genron NPO, is that this antipathy had been gradually subsiding, especially among young people, thanks in part to booming tourism and a mutual affinity for the other country's popular culture.

A territorial dispute over a group of small islands, administered by South Korea but claimed by Japan, has also inflamed passions, notably when then-President Lee Myung-bak visited the islands in 2012.

But the relationship is also complicated by the immense changes that have swept through

South Korea over the past five decades as the country has emerged from Japan's shadow to become a thriving democracy and economic powerhouse in its own right.

South Korea grew up, and Japan never really accepted that, according to Koichi Nakano, a political science professor at Tokyo's Sophia University.

"Many Japanese leaders are still caught up with a condescending, or even perhaps bordering on a racist, attitude toward South Korea as a smaller and less developed country," he said. "There is this attitude among conservatives that at the end of the day, we can bully Korea into submission."

South Korea's fervent nationalism, in its own right, is far from overruled. In fact, it's preoccupied with other issues — its relationships with North Korea, the United States and China are today seen as more important than its relations with Japan.

Liberals in Seoul tend to place less value than conservatives on the alliance with the United States, and so less value on the triangular relationship with Japan, said Junya Nishino, director of contemporary Korean studies at Keio University in Tokyo.



## MILITARY



The U.S. 7th Fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge arrives Friday for a port visit in Otaru, Japan.

ETHAN CARTER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

# USS Blue Ridge makes port visit after long refit

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

ABOARD THE USS BLUE RIDGE in Otaru, Japan — Quarter-sized snowflakes pummeled the USS Blue Ridge on Friday as the Navy's oldest operational ship pulled into this city for the first time in nearly five years.

Snow piled on the shoulders of the ship's leadership during a morning ceremony. The hulking, gray flagship of the U.S. 7th Fleet behind them stuck out against the blizzard-white sky and snow-packed pier.

Hokkaido businessman Yoshiro Ito, of the Japan Defense Cooperative Association, welcomed 7th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer and his staff to Otaru during an outdoor welcoming ceremony on the snowy pier Friday morning. A crowd of about 75 shivering onlookers gathered to hear his short speech.

"It is very unusual to have the 7th Fleet admiral visit Hokkaido," Ito said. "I'm so happy to show you winter."

The Navy regularly sends sailors to Hokkaido, the northernmost of the four main islands of Japan, to participate in winter festivals.

On Sunday, the USS Antietam stopped in nearby Ishikari for the 70th annual Sapporo Snow Festival, according to a Navy statement. Last week, a team of 11 sailors from Misawa Naval Air Facility created a snow carving in Sapporo for the festival.

The Blue Ridge, a nearly 19,000-ton warship, was commissioned in 1970 as a central planning vessel for fleet leaders, according to the Navy. The 6th Fleet uses the Blue Ridge's sister ship, the USS Mount Whitney, in a similar fashion.

The command ship in October returned to sea for short trips after two years of maintenance, upgrades and repairs costing more than \$60 million. Its commanding officer, Capt. Eric Anduze, said major changes included upgrades to communications equipment, command and control networks and satellite systems.

"Our biggest upgrade is what's called CANES — the Consolidated Afloat Network Enterprise," Anduze said. "It's a computer



PHOTOS BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS/Stars and Stripes

Above: Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer, left, commander of the U.S. 7th Fleet, holds flowers from citizens of Otaru during a welcoming ceremony. Below: USS Blue Ridge sailors stand watch on board the Navy's oldest operational ship.



system that provides the commander with a much more modern electronic communications suite and computer suite."

Anduze said some mechanical upgrades were also made, noting that "it's a 1970 ship

... a lot of things needed to be updated and reworked."

The Blue Ridge still runs on steam power, and Anduze said the crew takes great pride in mixing old technology with new.

"We have boiler technicians and we have network operators all still on the same ship fulfilling one mission, which is supporting 7th Fleet staff and the commander in doing his job," Anduze said. "So, it's the old and the new all working together to make sure that we provide the capabilities necessary."

The port visit gives the crew of about 1,000 a chance to relax, interact with the local community and attend several events taking place this week in the region, including the Sapporo Snow Festival and Otaru Snow Light Path Festival.

"We've been looking forward to coming up here for several months now, and it didn't disappoint," Anduze said. "Snowboarding, the festivals, the food — everybody's very excited about this area in the northern part of Japan."

At the welcoming ceremony, Sawyer told an audience of Japanese leaders, Japan Self-Defense Forces servicemen and media that the stop in Otaru was special for the Blue Ridge and 7th Fleet staffs.

"While we call Yokosuka home and work with the [Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force] throughout the year, opportunities to visit this part of Japan are rare, and we truly appreciate Otaru's hospitality," Sawyer said.

Not everyone in Otaru was welcoming. Anduze said he heard some Hokkaido residents protesting the Blue Ridge's arrival Friday morning. A Japanese journalist told Anduze during an onboard press conference that some citizens were concerned the Blue Ridge was carrying nuclear weapons, to which Anduze replied that the ship is not.

During their remaining time in Otaru, Blue Ridge sailors will participate in several community engagement events, playing basketball with Otaru high school students and volunteering at the snow light path festival, according to a Navy statement.

The Navy said in its statement that such events "build on the long-standing friendship between American and Japanese citizens." It is unclear how long the ship will remain in Otaru, as the Navy does not discuss future movements.

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## WAR/MILITARY

## Retired Navy captain sentenced in corruption case

By ANDREW DYER

The San Diego Union-Tribune

A Navy captain described by his Pacific Fleet commander as the "standard-bearer in the public affairs community" was sentenced Friday to six months in prison for his role in the yearslong "Fat Leonard" scandal that torpedoed dozens of naval officers' careers.

Retired Capt. Jeffrey Breslau, 52, pleaded guilty in November to a felony charge that his business relationship with Leonard Glenn "Fat Leonard" Francis constituted a conflict of interest.

Breslau fought back tears Friday in a San Diego courtroom as he said he was sorry for what he had done and how it affected his wife, family and country.

After retiring from the Navy, Breslau said, he worked as a spokesman for the city of Johns Creek, Ga., but after his guilty plea he left that job. Now he is working part-time at a fast food restaurant.

"I understand what rock bottom means,"

Breslau said.

The so-called "Fat Leonard" scandal rocked the Navy and tarnished the reputation of a generation of officers.

Francis pleaded guilty in 2015 to orchestrating a massive bribery and corruption scheme involving scores of naval officers. His company, Glenn Defense Marine Asia, served as the Navy's primary ship husbanding agent in the western Pacific and, over the course of decades, over-charged the Navy \$35 million in bogus or inflated fees.

A network of Navy officers and officials, including an NCIS agent, worked for years to thwart multiple investigations into Francis and his company and to steer Navy ships to ports controlled by his company. In exchange, Francis provided his network

of corrupt officials with cash, travel, fine dining, lavish parties and prostitutes.

Francis has yet to be sentenced. He is on house arrest in San Diego and is a witness for the prosecution.

Breslau was one of the top public affairs officers for the Navy's Pacific Fleet, headquartered in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, from October 2009 through July 2012. According to a 2012 evaluation dated by Adm. Patrick Walsh, the commander of the Pacific Fleet, Breslau was the "best PAO in the Navy," and a "must-select" for the admiral ranks.

In March of that year Breslau had begun secretly working for Francis, who was by then the subject of an expansive criminal investigation.

Breslau worked for Francis for more than a year. He wrote, reviewed or edited at least 33 documents and provided Francis with talking points for meetings with high-ranking Navy officials. He also served as a ghostwriter for Francis' email communications to the Navy.

Francis paid him \$65,000. Breslau never disclosed the arrangement to his superiors.

Francis was arrested in 2013 in a San Diego hotel room. Since then, 33 others have been charged in the scheme, with 22 pleading guilty. Hundreds more were investigated by the Navy.

Some officers caught up in the Fat Leonard scandal have escaped prosecution. Of the estimated 500 officers investigated by the Department of Defense for their contacts with Francis, a majority were cleared of criminal wrongdoing.

Some did receive reprimands, reduction in rank or censure from the Navy.

The most extensive prosecution in the scandal has yet to go to trial. Nine Navy and Marine Corps officers from the Navy's 7th Fleet await trial together in San Diego.

Breslau was fined \$20,000 and ordered to pay back the Navy \$65,000. He reports to prison in April.



CHRISTOPHER LINDBORG/Courtesy of the U.S. Army Reserve

## Sling load training

U.S. Army Capt. Chavonna Rhodes, assigned to the 595th Transportation Brigade, participates in sling load dirty training during day five of Air Assault School's Class 301-19 on Feb. 10 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

## US-backed fighters close in on last village held by ISIS in Syria

Associated Press

BEIRUT — U.S.-backed Syrian forces captured 41 positions held by Islamic State militants and destroyed their fortifications in the last tiny pocket they hold in eastern Syria amid fierce fighting, a spokesman said Sunday.

Mustafa Bali said the Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces made the advances overnight and on Sunday, hours after they launched a final push to clear the area from ISIS militants Saturday night.

The final battle to clear the village of Baghouz is now playing out after 20,000 civilians were evacuated from the area in the eastern province of Deir-el-Zour over the past few weeks.

Bali said heavy fighting was going on inside Baghouz on Sunday, adding that an ISIS counter-attack was foiled early in the day. He did not say how long the battle was expected to last.

U.S.-led coalition warplanes are giving cover to advancing

SDF fighters.

President Donald Trump predicted Wednesday that ISIS will lose by this week all the territory it once controlled in Iraq and Syria.

That would mark the end of a four-year global war to end the extremist group's territorial hold over large parts of Syria and Iraq where the group established its self-proclaimed "caliphate" in 2014.

U.S. officials have said in recent weeks that ISIS has lost 99.5 percent of its territory and is holding on to fewer than 5 square kilometers in Syria, or less than 2 square miles, where the bulk of the fighters are concentrated.

But activists and residents say ISIS still has sleeper cells in Syria and Iraq and is laying the groundwork for an insurgency. The U.S. military has warned the group could stage a comeback if the military and counterterrorism pressure on it is eased.

## Afghan lawmaker says airstrikes have killed 21 civilians

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Airstrikes in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province have killed 21 civilians, including women and children, a lawmaker from the region said Sunday.

Mohammad Hashim Alkozaï said 13 civilians were killed in one strike and eight in another. Both were carried out late Friday in the Sangin district, where heavy fighting is underway between

NATO-backed Afghan forces and the Taliban. Alkozaï said at least five other people were wounded in the airstrikes.

"Innocent people, women and children, are the only victims of the airstrikes," he said, adding that the military operations have stoked public anger.

Omer Zrak, the provincial governor's spokesman, said insurgents fired on Afghan forces from a civilian area. He confirmed that

airstrikes had killed civilians but could not provide further information. He said an investigation has been launched.

Alkozaï said he has raised concerns about civilian casualties in parliament and with government officials but that they have taken no action.

Afghan forces are struggling to combat the Taliban, who hold sway over nearly half the country and carry out daily attacks on se-

curity forces.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, the Taliban killed at least eight Afghan police in an attack on a checkpoint in the northern Sari Pul province late Saturday, said Zabihullah Amani, the governor's spokesman. He said three other police were wounded in the gun-battle, which lasted several hours.

In a separate development, the Afghan intelligence service said it had arrested three members of the

Haqqani group, a Taliban faction believed to be based in Pakistan, in connection with two bombings in Kabul that killed and wounded dozens of people.

The National Directorate of Security said the three suspects confessed to taking part in a truck bombing near the German Embassy in May 2017 that killed at least 90 people and a November 2018 attack that killed five security contractors, including a British national.



## NATION

# Border talks at impasse as 2nd shutdown looms

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE  
AND ALAN FRAM  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As negotiations over a border security bill a snag, the White House on Sunday would not rule out another federal government shutdown even as it signaled a willingness to obtain funding for President Donald Trump's proposed wall by other means.

Acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, in appearances on NBC's "Meet the Press" and "Fox News Sunday," said "you absolutely cannot" eliminate the possibility of another shutdown on Friday if a deal is not reached over the wall.

The White House had asked for \$5.7 billion, a figure rejected by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives, and the mood among lawmakers has soured, according to people familiar with the negotiations not authorized to speak publicly about private talks.

"You cannot take a shutdown off the table, and you cannot take \$5.7 billion off the table," Mulvaney told NBC, "but if you end up somewhere in the middle, yeah, then what you probably see is the president say, 'Yeah, OK, and I'll go find the money someplace else.'"

A congressional deal seemed to stall even after Mulvaney convened a bipartisan group of law-

makers at Camp David on Friday. While the two sides seemed close to clinching a deal late last week, significant gaps remained and momentum appears to have slowed.

The White House and many Republicans want to push the amount that would be spent for building physical barriers to \$2 billion or higher. Democrats have said they will keep that figure below \$2 billion, with some saying they support perhaps half that. In addition, Democrats are pushing to reduce the number of apprehended migrants detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a federal agency. Republicans are resisting.

"I think talks are stalled right now," Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., said Sunday on Fox. "I'm not confident we're going to get there."

Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., who appeared on the same program, agreed that "we are not to the point where we can announce a deal."

But Mulvaney did signal that the White House would prefer not to have a repeat of the last shutdown, which stretched more than a month, left more than 800,000 government workers without paychecks, forced a postponement of the State of the Union address and sent Trump's poll numbers tumbling.

As support in his own party began to splinter, Trump sur-

rendered after the shutdown hit 35 days without getting money for the wall.

"The president is going to build the wall. That's our attitude at this point," Mulvaney told Fox. "We'll give us, and we'll go find the money somewhere else, legally, and build that wall on the southern border, with or without Congress."

The president's supporters have suggested there are executive powers that Trump could use to divert money from the federal budget for wall construction, though it was unclear if they would face challenges in Congress or the courts. One provision of the law lets the Defense Department provide support for counterdrug activities.

But declaring a national emergency remained an option, Mulvaney said, even though many in the administration have cooled on the prospect. A number of powerful Republicans, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., have also warned against the move, believing it usurps power from Congress and could set a precedent for a future Democratic president to declare an emergency for a liberal political cause.

"This is not the case of the president not getting what he wants, so he goes off and declares a national emergency and gets the money he wants," said Mulvaney, who



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

**In Sunday morning television interviews, acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney said "you absolutely cannot" eliminate the possibility of another shutdown over border wall funding.**

defended Trump's right to do so. "Face it, the president doesn't really want to do it. He would prefer legislation because it's the right way to go."

As most budget disputes go, differences over hundreds of millions of dollars are usually imperceptible and easily solved. But this battle more than most is driven by political symbolism — whether Trump will be able to claim he delivered on his long-running pledge to "build the wall" or newly empowered congressional Democrats' ability to thwart him.

Predictably, each side blamed the other for the stall in negotiations.

"We were, you know, progressing well," Rep. Tom Graves, R-Ga., said Sunday on ABC's "This Week." "I thought we were track-

ing pretty good over the last week. And it just seems over the last 24 hours or so the goal posts have been moving from the Democrats."

House Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth, D-Ky., countered by telling the same show that "the numbers are all over the place."

"I think the big problem here is this has become pretty much an ego negotiation," Yarmuth added. "And this really isn't over substance."

In a battle that's also largely over semantics, Democrats have said they won't pay for a "wall." But they are open to financing other types of barriers, such as vertical steel slats called bollards, barriers atop levies and vehicle barriers.

## House VA panel launches investigation into Mar-a-Lago trio

BY NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs initiated an investigation Friday into how much influence three wealthy members of President Donald Trump's private club in Palm Beach, Fla., exerted over the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The committee, now led by Democrats, sent a letter Friday to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie demanding documents and correspondence that could reveal the level of involvement at the VA of Mar-a-Lago members Ike Perlmutter, Marc Sherman and Bruce Moskowitz.

Perlmutter, the chairman of Marvel Entertainment; Sherman, a lawyer; and Moskowitz, a Palm Beach doctor, have no U.S. military or government experience, yet they are reported to have steered VA officials on policies affecting millions of veterans.

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is opening an investigation into this relationship so that Congress, veterans and the American people can better understand the scope and nature of this relationship between the department and these individuals," the letter states.

Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., the chairman of the veterans af-

fairs committee, wants travel logs to and from Mar-a-Lago, as well as emails, text messages and phone records between the three men and former and current VA officials, among other documents. Takano asked for the information by Feb. 22.

There were attempts last year to extract information from the VA about the relationship between the three men and VA insiders. Former Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., requested travel logs and copies of correspondence involving Perlmutter, Sherman and Moskowitz, but Wilkie refused to hand them over, citing ongoing litigation.

Walz, now the governor of Minnesota, accused Wilkie of trying to "sweep this under the rug." Wilkie has denied to Congress that he was taking cues from the Mar-a-Lago members and insisted he had no connection with them following an initial meeting when he served as acting secretary in spring 2018.

In the new Congress, Democrats controlling the House have the power to initiate investigations and issue subpoenas to compel members of Trump's administration to comply.

As Takano took the helm of the veterans affairs committee in January, he said the Mar-a-Lago members' involvement was a "le-

gitimate area" for investigation.

"It involves a key policy point, which is the privatization of the VA, and the potential profiteering motives of people who are not appointed nor confirmed by the Senate wielding influence over what happens at the VA, who gets hired at the VA," Takano said at the time.

ProPublica, a nonprofit news agency, reported last year that the Mar-a-Lago members had decision-making authority at the VA and influenced the ousting of former VA Secretary David Shulkin after growing frustrated with his leadership.

The committee aims to look into an instance in February 2017 when Shulkin rang the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange — an event where Perlmutter's Marvel Entertainment was promoted.

Lawmakers also plan to probe how much power the men could have had over a \$10 billion VA contract with Cerner Corp. for a project to overhaul the agency's electronic health record system. Multiple news outlets reported the men were given an advance look at a draft of the contract.

Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, brought up the allegation Tuesday during a hearing about the election's health care record. He asked the VA to submit in writing

whether any officials were influenced by the three men.

"This concern that there are three private individuals who meet at a private club who have improper influence over the operation of the VA is a first-order scandal, if it's true," Schatz said.

"And we want to get to the bottom of that particular question."

On Thursday, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., reached out to Perlmutter, Sherman and Moskowitz directly, requesting information about their influence at the VA.

The three men have previously downplayed their roles.

After numerous calls from lawmakers, the Government Accountability Office agreed in November to investigate the matter but noted it wouldn't have the staff available to initiate its probe until this spring.

In the committee letter sent Friday, Takano concluded: "Government officials and private individuals who seek to use the department for personal enrichment, or who make poor decisions that waste taxpayer dollars or negatively affect the delivery of veterans' health care and benefits must be held to account."

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## Officials: 7 mumps cases at ICE facility in Houston

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Health officials say seven cases of the mumps have been confirmed at a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility in Houston.

The Houston Health Department said Saturday that the seven adults were detained during their infectious period. Health officials said there's no evidence the disease was transmitted outside the facility. The health department is working with the facility on infection control.

Mumps is contagious and spreads through coughing and sneezing.

Common symptoms are fever, headache and painfully swollen salivary glands that can cause puffy cheeks. Most people recover within weeks. Outbreaks are rare but have happened in Texas and the Houston region.

The mumps vaccine is part of routine childhood shots. U.S. health officials recommend that by age 6, all children get vaccinated for mumps, measles and rubella.

## NATION

# Va. lieutenant governor rejects calls to resign

By ALAN SUDERMAN  
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Virginia's embattled lieutenant governor has urged authorities to investigate sexual assault allegations made against him but hasn't heeded calls to resign, and it is unclear what comes next for the once-rising star of the state Democratic Party.

Two women have made allegations against Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax. On Saturday, Fairfax issued a statement repeating his strong denials that he had ever sexually assaulted anyone and made clear he does not intend to immediately step down.

Democratic Del. Patrick Hope said he wants to introduce articles of impeachment against Fairfax on Monday, but Hope is not a powerful figure in the House and there's little sign there's a real appetite for impeachment with lawmakers set to finish this year's legislative session by the

end of the month.

If an impeachment hearing does occur, attorneys for both of the women — Meredith Watson and Vanessa Tyson — say they are willing to testify. The Associated Press does not generally name victims of alleged sexual assault, but both women have come forward voluntarily.

Watson alleges that Fairfax raped her while they were students at Duke University in 2000, her attorney said in a statement. Tyson, a California college professor, alleges that Fairfax forced her to perform oral sex on him at a Boston hotel in 2004.

Fairfax has denied both allegations and on Saturday asked that "no one rush to judgment." "Our American values don't just work when it's convenient — they must be applied at the most difficult of times," he said.

Fairfax has urged the FBI to conduct a full investigation but it was not clear on what basis. The FBI has jurisdiction over federal



STEVE HELBER/AP

**Virginia Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, shown prior to the start of the Senate session at the Capitol in Richmond, Va., on Thursday, is rejecting calls that he resign over allegations of sexual assault.**

crimes, but sexual assault allegations such as the ones Fairfax is facing are traditionally regarded as state offenses handled by local police and prosecutors.

One way the FBI could potentially become involved is if Fairfax were to allege that he is the victim of extortion — which is a federal crime — but he has not made that claim.

After the second allegation against Fairfax was made Friday, he was hit with a barrage of

demands to step down from top Democrats, including a number of presidential hopefuls and most of Virginia's congressional delegation. Fairfax is the second back to ever win statewide office.

Meanwhile, Gov. Ralph Northam pledged to work at healing the state's racial divide and made his first official appearance a week after a racist photo on his 1984 medical school yearbook page surfaced and he acknowledged wearing blackface in the

1980s. Northam has also defied calls from practically his entire party to step down.

In his first interview since the scandal erupted, a chastened Northam told The Washington Post on Saturday that the uproar has pushed him to confront the state's deep and lingering divisions over race, as well as his own insensitivity. But he said that reflection has convinced him that, by remaining in office, he can work to resolve them.

## Fire chief wants changes in wake of the Las Vegas mass shooting

By RYAN TARINELLI  
Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. — A Las Vegas-area fire chief who warned lawmakers months before a 2017 mass shooting at a music festival that Nevada should bolster its emergency management planning says he wants to bypass state lawmakers to get changes made.

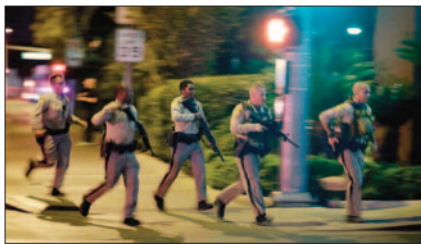
Six months before the Oct. 1, 2017, shooting on the Las Vegas Strip that killed 58 and left hundreds injured, Clark County Fire Department Chief Greg Cassell testified before state legislators in favor of a bill that would have required more coordination of emergency medical resources ahead of such a large event.

Investigators say gunman Stephen Paddock shot and killed when he fired from a high-rise suite in the Mandalay Bay casino-resort into the crowd of 22,000 at the Route 91 Harvest festival.

Cassell said Friday that had the legislation passed, the fire department would likely have had a fire incident commander on the scene before the shooting.

Having a fire incident commander at the event could have improved communication and made for a cleaner response plan, Cassell said.

Two weeks before the event, he told lawmakers the effort would avoid



JOHN LOCHER/AP

**Police run toward the scene of a shooting on Oct. 1, 2017, near the Mandalay Bay resort and casino on the Las Vegas Strip.**

delays in ordering and directing emergency response.

The legislation he supported in 2017 passed the Assembly unanimously but failed to make it out of the Senate. Cassell said he never received a clear answer on why the bill did not cross the finish line.

This year, he is instead pushing for Clark County to make changes requiring events of a certain size to have fire personnel on scene and in unified command with police.

While police and ambulance services were on duty at the

concert and event organizers obtained a required fire department permit and inspection, they were not required to and did not have any on-duty fire personnel at the concert.

A report released by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in August last year also recommended the change and revealed that some of the firefighters responding to the shooting were unaware that the festival was occurring and had to quickly set up a command when they encountered the chaotic aftermath.

## Bill for free child care at VA facilities nationwide passes

By NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The House easily passed legislation Friday to provide free child care for some veterans at Department of Veterans Affairs facilities nationwide.

The Veterans' Access to Child Care Act, H.R. 840, would make permanent a pilot program the VA began in 2011 to provide child care for veterans who need the VA for intensive medical and mental health care, such as cancer treatment or care for post-traumatic stress disorder. Because the program expires after one year, Congress has had to reauthorize it each year since 2011.

Rep. Julia Brownley, D-Calif., has sought to make the program a full-time service and expand it to VA locations nationwide.

"My bill makes that pilot program permanent, finally," Brownley said Thursday during a House Rules Committee hearing. "We have renewed it year, after year, after year."

The bill passed the House with a vote of 400-9. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., introduced similar legislation in the Senate.

Free child care services are now available only in Buffalo, N.Y.; Northport, N.Y.; Dallas; and the VA Puget Sound Health

Care System and the VA Northwest Health Care Network in Washington.

Child care has recently been considered a barrier to VA access for some veterans. Before the program launched in 2011, the VA found more than 10 percent of its patients had to cancel or reschedule VA appointments because they lacked child care.

The VA later estimated more than 10,000 children had used the program by 2015, and female veterans used it in significantly higher numbers than men.

"If a veteran is precluded from getting treated for her injuries of war for lack of resources for child care, we need to correct that gap in care," said Tom Porter, legislative director for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

The legislation was the first bill brought to the floor this session by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Committee chairman Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., said it was a step toward helping underserved and overlooked veterans — part of his "VA 2030" vision.

A committee hearing about that vision is scheduled for Wednesday.

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## NATION

## Pacific Northwest to receive more snow

By GENE JOHNSON  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Residents of the Pacific Northwest took to neighborhood hills with skis, sleds or even just laundry baskets Saturday to celebrate an unusual dump of snow in a region more accustomed to winter rain.

Some areas received more than a foot of snow, and meteorologists say more is on the way. The National Weather Service said that 1 to 3 inches could fall across the Northwest Sunday afternoon to evening. Hundreds of flights were canceled in Seattle and Portland, and heavy snowdrifts closed major highways in eastern Washington. Around 50,000 people lost power.

Residents cleared out grocery store shelves and left work early Friday afternoon as the storm arrived. More than a foot of snow was recorded by Saturday morning in some areas, including on the Olympic Peninsula, in the nation's latest bout of winter weather.

The Seattle Times reported storms have delivered more snow to Seattle in the first days of February than it usually gets in a year.

In Tacoma, hundreds of people turned out for a snowball fight in a park after someone who lives nearby suggested it on Facebook. They took cover behind picnic tables and used sleds as shields.

"This is a perfect morning to bundle up and play in the snow, but stay off the roads if possible," Gary Anderson wrote on Facebook.

In central Washington, blowing snow and drifts 3 to 4 feet deep forced the closure of U.S. 2 and Interstate 90. The Grant County Sheriff's Office warned that snowdrifts were blocking many roads. Airports in eastern Washington closed, and numerous car crashes were reported.

"Snow conditions are worsening



Ted S. WARREN/AP

People taking part in a public snowball fight use a table as a shield Saturday at Wright Park in Tacoma, Wash.

minute to minute, so don't expect travel conditions to improve," the sheriff's office wrote.

The National Weather Service said another storm was expected early this week.

About 180 people spent the night at an emergency shelter set up at Seattle Center, with officials going out again on Saturday to get other homeless residents to safety.

Insee declared a state of emergency over the storm. The state transportation department said crews had to clear several trees that had fallen across roads in the Tacoma area.

In Portland, a tanker truck slid into a sport-utility vehicle on an interchange between Interstates 5 and 84 on Saturday, blocking the ramp for hours.

Other parts of the country were also wrestling with difficult weather. Residents of Hawaii

were bracing for coastal flooding amid extreme surf predictions. A California man died in rough waters off of Maui on Friday, Hawaii News Now reported.

In California, more than 120 visitors and staff members were rescued Thursday after being trapped by up to 7 feet of snow in a Sierra Nevada resort for five days.

Another winter storm was on the way to the region.

In Yosemite National Park, as many as 50 housing structures near Half Dome Village were damaged by trees toppled during a snowstorm earlier last week, displacing more than 160 employees who provide food, lodging and other services for visitors.

Elsewhere, more than 148,000 customers lost power in Michigan following days of freezing rain. The Consumers Energy utility

said power would be restored by late Sunday.

In Washington, about 50,000 people lost power. In Seattle, snowfall from the previous Sunday and Monday lingered into the week as below-freezing temperatures gripped the area. A 59-year-old man died Thursday from exposure at a Seattle light rail station.

Residents in Portland and Seattle who are more accustomed to rain than snow waited in long lines to buy shovels and de-icer.

Autumn Saug was at a mobbed grocery store in Tualatin, Ore., on Friday stocking up for the coming storm for herself and her neighbor, who is disabled and doesn't have a car.

Saug said she had never seen the store so crowded. She grew up in southern Oregon, where snow is more common, and wasn't fazed by the forecast.

## Power outages lead to state of emergency in Grand Rapids

Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has declared a state of emergency in Grand Rapids, qualifying the city for additional assistance as it copes with power outages and cleans up from storms.

Whitmer said the declaration gives Grand Rapids additional resources beyond what it's already receiving from state agencies such as the emergency management division of the state police. Ice and fierce winds last week in western Michigan knocked down power lines and tree limbs.

Consumers Energy's online outage map showed 22,500 customers in the region had no electricity Sunday morning, down from a peak last week of 231,000. Crews from eight states are working to restore power.

In Portland, a bridge over the Grand River has reopened 35 miles northwest of Lansing. The river has been jammed with ice.

"I love it. I'm excited about it," she said. "I think that Portlanders, most of them are city people and they come from a lot of different places, so they're not so used to it. It's like, 'Use your brain! If you don't have to go out, don't go out.'"

# \$1 billion US weather disasters double in recent years

By BRADY DENNIS  
AND CHRIS MOONEY  
The Washington Post

The number of \$1 billion weather disasters in the United States has more than doubled in recent years as devastating hurricanes and ferocious wildfires that experts suspect are fueled in part by climate change have ravaged swaths of the country, according to data released by the federal government Wednesday.

Since 1980, the United States has experienced 241 weather and climate disasters in which the overall damage reached or exceeded \$1 billion, data adjusted for inflation, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Between 1980 and 2013, according to NOAA, the nation averaged roughly half a dozen such disasters a year. Over the most recent five years, that number has jumped to more than 12.

"We had about twice the number of billion-dollar disasters

than we have in an average year over the last 40 years or so," Deke Arndt, chief of the monitoring branch at NOAA's National Center for Environmental Information, told reporters Wednesday.

NOAA said 14 separate weather and climate disasters, costing at least \$1 billion each, hit the United States during 2018. The disasters killed at least 247 people and cost the nation an estimated \$91 billion. The bulk of that damage, about \$73 billion, was attributable to three events: Hurricanes Michael and Florence and the collection of wildfires that raged across the West.

Yet 2018 did not set the record for the most expensive year for such disasters. That distinction belongs to 2017, when Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria combined with devastating Western wildfires and other natural catastrophes caused \$306 billion in total damage. They were part of a historic year that saw 16 separate events that cost more than \$1 billion each.

But the most recent numbers continue what some experts call an alarming trend toward an increasing number of \$1 billion disasters, fueled, at least in part, by the warming climate.

"There's this knot in your stomach where you know there is some big piece of this that is probably coming from climate change, but at the same time, there are a lot of moving parts," said Solomon Hsiang, a public policy professor at the University of California at Berkeley, who has studied how natural disasters affect societies.

Many factors contribute to the cost of any one disaster. For instance, a hurricane that hits a heavily populated area, such as Hurricane Sandy in 2012 or Hurricane Harvey in 2017, is likely to have a far higher economic impact than one that hits a less crowded part of the country.

The nation's growing population, inconsistent building codes and the fact that many cities and infrastructure sit near coasts or along rivers also play a role. But

increasingly, experts say, so does climate change.

"The recent past is likely prologue," said Mark Muro, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution who has studied the economic impact climate change is likely to have on different parts of the country in the coming decades.

Separately on Wednesday, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and NOAA released data that officially made 2018 the fourth-warmest year since 1880.

The agencies' data also showed that 2018 was the wettest in the past 35 years in the U.S., and the third-wettest since record keeping began in 1895.

Hsiang said climate models predict that the country can expect more of the most catastrophic and costly events over time — namely, more powerful hurricanes slamming into the East and Gulf coasts and more intense wildfires in the West. Scientists also have predicted that a warming climate will fuel more severe

droughts, longer wildfire seasons and more frequent floods.

Climate change has helped shape the severity of at least some of the natural disasters in recent years, said Kerry Emanuel, a top hurricane expert at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

However, that's different than saying that the overall aggregate damage figures are definitely rising because of climate change. That hasn't been proven to a 95 percent certainty, Emanuel said, but there are reasons to suspect climate change is playing a notable role.

There are also projections that the impact of climate change should soon be making itself felt in the cost of at least some disasters. A 2014 analysis by the Rhodium Group, for instance, projected that by 2030, the average damage from hurricanes and nor'easters, to the East and Gulf coasts in particular, should be \$3 billion to \$7.3 billion higher each year. That's if climate change continues unabated.



## NATION

# The quest for a cannabis beverage

## Scientists are racing to make marijuana like booze so you can drink it

By KRISTINE OWRAM

Bloomberg

**P**eople who drink alcohol typically learn the hard way how much is too much — usually in their teens or early 20s. As adults, they're not interested in learning the same hard-knocks lesson about cannabis.

This is the challenge for an industry seeking to win over new or inexperienced users as legalization spreads through North America and around the world. It's a particularly daunting one for makers of cannabis-infused beverages, a product that researcher Canaccord Genuity Group expects will be worth \$600 million in the U.S. by 2022.

That market potential has attracted several big alcohol companies that are seeking to offset declining beer consumption with the next big thing. The best-known partnership is Constellation Brands Inc.'s 38 percent stake in Canopy Growth Corp., the largest cannabis firm by market value, for which it paid about \$4 billion. Budweiser brewer Anheuser-Busch InBev formed a research partnership with Tilray Inc., with each company investing up to \$50 million in the venture, and Molson Coors Brewing Co. has teamed up with Quebec-based Hexo Corp.

All those companies are working to develop consumer-friendly cannabis drinks that can compete with alcohol, but there's one problem: Pot is nothing like booze.

### The edible effect

Alcohol is water-soluble and cannabis is not, meaning alcohol is absorbed into the bloodstream quickly, whereas pot edibles and beverages are metabolized much later in the digestive process. This leads to the classic edible effect, when inexperienced users consume a weed bomb by 2022 nothing, have a second and then find out an hour later that they're far happier than they wanted to be.

The problem of onset time (and the related problem of how long the effect takes to wear off) is one of the biggest challenges facing makers of cannabis beverages and may be one of the reasons the products currently make up a tiny portion of the overall legal pot market — less than 0.5 percent of total U.S. sales, according to BDS Analytics.

Many in the industry believe the key to mainstream acceptance is creating a "sessionable" beverage, where one can have two or three drinks over a few hours, perhaps with friends drinking alcohol, while enjoying a steady, moderate high.

"We think onset time is going to be one of the critical factors in the next stage of cannabis-infused beverages, and the investments



COLE BURSTON/Bloomberg

**A lab technician pours a bottle of beer brewed using cannabis at the Province Brands of Canada laboratory in Belleville, Ontario.**

being made by consumer-packaged goods companies and by big alcohol are going to dramatically move that needle," said John Kagia, chief knowledge officer at New Frontier Data, a Washington-based cannabis research firm.

Making cannabis compounds water-soluble so they act more like alcohol will be key to improving onset time, but most in the industry agree there is no technological magic bullet.

"We're not betting on one horse," said Canopy Chief Executive Officer Bruce Linton. The Smiths Falls, Ontario-based company is experimenting with ways to improve onset time and taste

in cannabis-infused beverages, but believes there's no "perfect answer."

"The technical steps are half the battle, and then there's who wants what, when, where and why," including decisions like bottles or cans, size, color, brand and taste, Linton said.

### Onset time

To solve the problem of onset time, many companies are experimenting with nano-emulsification, which uses a blending agent that attaches to the cannabis molecules, enabling them to better mix with water. Done correctly, the process should allow the active ingredients to evenly dis-

perse in the beverage and absorb into the bloodstream much faster than if they're digested.

This is the process used by Cannabiners, a beverage, technology and brand management company that owns Nevada-based Two Roots Brewing Co., which makes nonalcoholic, cannabis-infused beer. Cannabiners says it has achieved a 10-minute onset time with its products, and they wear off in about 90 minutes.

"We really do emulate the bell curve of consumption for traditional alcohol products in that we do have a rapid onset and quick offset," said Kevin Love, vice president of market activations.

"It takes a brave person to

make that jump," he said.

Province Brands of Canada is taking a different approach — replacing barley and brewing beer directly from the stalks, stems and roots of the cannabis plant.

Trait Biosciences Inc., meanwhile, is using glycosylation, which mimics what the body does when it metabolizes cannabis by attaching a glucose molecule to the substance.

This patent-pending technology, currently being tested on humans in clinical trials in Israel, improves onset time and avoids the "sala-dressing effect," where the oily cannabis compounds separate from water, according to Ronan Levy, chief strategy officer at Trait.

The company has also filed a patent for a second process that binds the cannabis compounds to water-soluble proteins rather than glucose molecules.

### Early days

Levy is optimistic about the market potential for cannabis beverages but acknowledges it's still early days for the industry. "There's a strong sentiment that beverages are probably going to become the leading mechanism for ingestion," Levy said. "They just haven't yet because the truth is that most products out there are kind of terrible."

The rigorous restrictions on pot research in the U.S. don't help. Because the plant remains illegal at the federal level, researchers must apply to the Drug Enforcement Administration to get a license and then secure a legal supply, most of which comes from a 10-acre farm at the University of Mississippi. Even in Canada, which legalized recreational marijuana use in October, edibles and beverages won't be available until later this year at the soonest.

"Given that cannabis has been illegal for much of the past century, you're seeing the industry now making up for almost a century's worth of innovation and investment in a two- to five-year period," said Kagia, at New Frontier Data. "We would argue that we've still barely scratched the tip of the iceberg around where product innovation in cannabis is going."

But progress should happen quickly now that big alcohol companies are investing significant time, money and resources into research, said Spiros Malandrakis, head of alcoholic drinks at market-research firm Euromonitor International.

"With the know-how that these companies have already in creating all kinds of beverages, I honestly have little doubt that these kind of products will be upon us and the onset effect will be resolved by the end of this year," he said.

**"There's a strong sentiment that beverages are probably going to become the leading mechanism for ingestion. They just haven't yet because the truth is that most products out there are kind of terrible."**

Ronan Levy

chief strategy officer at Trait Biosciences Inc.

## WORLD

## Turkey urges China to close Uighur camps

ISTANBUL — Turkey has called China's treatment of its minority Uighurs "a great cause of shame for humanity."

In a statement Saturday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hani Aksoy said it's "no longer a secret" that China has arbitrarily detained more than 1 million Uighurs in "concentration camps."

Aksoy said Turkey has shared with China its position on "all levels" and urged authorities to close the detention facilities and respect human rights.

After months of denying their existence, Chinese authorities under increasing outside pressure acknowledged the system of camps, terming them vocational training centers.

## Turkey blames illegal construction for collapse

ISTANBUL — Turkish officials blamed illegal construction practices for the collapse of an apartment building in Istanbul as they joined hundreds of mourners Saturday at a funeral for nine members of one family killed in the disaster.

Murat Kurum, Turkey's minister for environment and urban planning, said the collapsed building had permits for only six floors. He said someone had illegally built its top two floors with low quality concrete and sea sand instead of construction-grade concrete and stronger steel.

## Collapsed Genoa bridge remains being removed

GENOA, Italy — Work is under way to remove what is left of the Morandi Bridge, the key highway span in the Italian city of Genoa that collapsed in August, killing 43 people.

Engineers spent hours Saturday lowering a 118-foot long chunk of road, the start of demolition efforts to clear the way for a new bridge to be built.

The delicate, time-consuming operation was necessary given the unstable remains of the bridge that crosses a populated area.

## Male tiger kills female tiger meant to be mate

A potential courtship ended in tragedy Friday at the London Zoo, where staff say a female Sumatran tiger was killed by a male they once bonded would be her "perfect mate."

The zoo said the male tiger, Asim, arrived at the zoo 10 days before and was placed in a separate enclosure next to the female, Melati. That granted them time to smell, see and react to one another.

The two animals were wary of each other at first — a normal development, according to the zoo. When they began to interact, however, the cats' caution turned into aggression.

"Zoo staff immediately implemented their prepared response, using loud noises, flares and alarms to try to distract the pair, but Asim had already overpowered Melati," the zoo said. Keepers were able to restrain Asim, but Melati died from the attack.

From The Associated Press

## Brazilian soccer club under scrutiny

By MARCELO SILVA DE SOUSA  
AND MAURICIO SAVARESE

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Under mounting criticism Saturday, Brazilian soccer club Flamengo defended its management of the training ground where a fire killed 10 of its academy players at a dormitory that had been registered with the city as a parking lot.

Rio de Janeiro's city hall said in a statement that Flamengo was fined 31 times because of infractions at the Ninho do Urubu training ground, which had to be temporarily closed in October 2017. The club did not pay 21 of those fines.

City hall also said the sleeping quarters where Flamengo's players died was irregularly licensed as a parking lot.

"The lodging area hit by the fire is not included in the last project approved by our licensing," it said. "There are no registers of new licensing requests for that area as a sleeping quarter."

Three teenagers injured in the fire were still in the hospital, including one in serious condition. Flamengo CEO Reinaldo Belotti pushed back on accusations, saying the licensing issues "have nothing to do with the accident."

He said the sleeping quarter was a proper lodging, not an improvised structure.

"It was not because of lack of attention and care from Flamengo.



LEO CORREA/AP

A friend grieves at the grave of a young soccer player, one of the victims of a fire at a Brazilian soccer academy, in Volta Redonda, Brazil, on Saturday.

These boys are our biggest asset," he said. "It was all a succession of events after a catastrophic day for Rio."

The cause of the fire was still unknown, although authorities were looking at a possible short circuit in the air-conditioning

system.

The administration of Mayor Marcelo Crivella said it would open an investigation, while local police said they have already heard testimony from 13 surviving players and three Flamengo staffers.

In the meantime, the scope of the tragedy became increasingly clear as the Flamengo club announced that all the victims were between 14 and 16 years of age.

Throughout Brazil, mourning rituals and commemorations were underway.

## French yellow vest anti-government protests turn fiery, violent in Paris

By THOMAS ADAMSON

Associated Press

PARIS — A French yellow vest protester's hand was ripped apart Saturday during violent clashes in Paris as demonstrators tried to storm the French National Assembly in a 13th consecutive week of unrest.

Police said the injured protester lost four fingers as police swooped in to stop protesters from breaching the parliament's exterior. Police could not confirm French media reports that the hand of the demonstrator, who is being treated in the hospital, was blown up by a grenade used to disperse unruly crowds.

As scuffles broke out in front of the National Assembly and French police responded with tear gas, paramedics huddled around the injured protester at the National Assembly gates.

Police used batons and fired tear gas in Paris to disperse demonstrators, some of whom threw debris at riot police. Cars, motorcycles and trash bins were set ablaze as the protest moved toward the city's Invalides monument and onto the Eiffel Tower.

French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner went to Twitter to express his "disgust" as protest-



KAMIL ZHINOGLU/AP

Riot police run past burning dustbins set on fire by yellow vest protesters in Paris on Saturday.

ers set alight an anti-terrorism military car. Its yellow smoking plumes, against the backdrop of the Eiffel Tower, made for a powerful image of rejecting authority.

"Every day the military... protects our compatriots from the risk of terrorism. These attacks are intolerable," Castaner said.

Police said 31 demonstrators had been arrested in the unrest. But France's Interior Ministry said the protest was significantly smaller than the previous week's.

The yellow vest activists, who have brought hundreds of thousands onto the streets over the past three months, are now trying to achieve electoral success but the movement is politically divided and has no appointed leader.

French President Emmanuel Macron — the target of many demonstrators' anger — seems to be clawing back support from the public. Recent polls show Macron's approval ratings are rising.

## Report finds Finnish WWII troops likely killed Jews

Associated Press

HELSINKI — An Israeli Holocaust historian on Sunday praised Finnish authorities for publishing a report concluding that the country's volunteer battalion, which served with Nazi Germany's Waffen-SS, took part in atrocities during World War II, including participating in the mass murder of Jews.

Efraim Zuroff of the Simon Wiesenthal Center lauded the determination of the National Archives of Finland to release its findings, even if it was "painful and uncomfortable" for Finland. He called it an "example of unique and exemplary civic courage."

The independent 248-page investigative report in English — commissioned by the Finnish government and released Friday — said 1,408 Finnish volunteers served within the SS Panzer Division Wiking during 1941-43, most of them aged between 17 and 20 years old.

"It is very likely that they (Finnish volunteers) participated in the killing of Jews, other civilians and prisoners of war as part of the German SS troops," said Jussi Nuorteva, director-general of the National Archives.

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# OPINION

## True socialism should be shunned by all

By CASS R. SUNSTEIN  
Bloomberg News

In his state of the Union address, President Donald Trump was entirely right to reject "new calls to adopt socialism in our country." He was right to add that "America was founded on liberty and independence — not government coercion," and to "renew our resolve that America will never be a socialist country."

Yet to many Americans, the idea of socialism seems to have growing appeal.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, one of the nation's most influential new voices, is a member of the Democratic Socialists of America. Sen. Bernie Sanders, a leading voice among progressives, has long described himself as a Democratic socialist.

Since 2010, most Democrats have had a favorable attitude toward socialism. Recently, 57 percent of Democrats reported such a favorable attitude, well above the 47 percent who said they have a positive attitude toward capitalism. (By contrast, 71 percent of Republicans are upbeat about capitalism, and only 16 percent feel positively about socialism.)

True, most of the Americans who approve of socialism are likely to be thinking of something like Scandinavian-style social democracy, rather than something out of Karl Marx. But by words matter, especially when they refer to systems of governance. What, then, is socialism?

According to a standard definition, socialism calls for government ownership or control of the means of production. By contrast, capitalism calls for private ownership and control — for a robust system of property rights.

In capitalist systems, companies and firms, both large and small, are generally in private hands. In socialist systems, the state controls them. If they are given room to maneuver, their rights are conditional, and they can be taken away at any time.

Many people have identified socialism with government planning. Socialist systems give public officials a great deal of

authority over prices, levels of production and wages.

Friedrich Hayek, socialism's greatest critic, showed that giving that authority to government is a recipe for disaster. The reason is that even if officials are well-motivated, they lack the necessary information.

Unlike planners, free markets and the price system are able to encode the knowledge, the preferences and the values of dispersed people. Hayek rightly described the process as "a marvel."

Whether we are speaking of laptops or sneakers, coffee or candy bars, umbrellas or blankets, markets establish prices, levels of production and wages on the basis of the desires, the beliefs and the values of countless people. No planner can possibly do that.

So here's the problem. Many Democrats say that they like socialism. But it is doubtful that they want the government to own and operate the nation's airlines, hospitals, restaurants and department stores.

Nor is it likely that they would favor a political candidate who called for a National Planning Agency, establishing prices for goods, services and wages. Even if they want an increase in the minimum wage, socialist-style planning is surely a bridge too far.

In his own effort to explain what he meant by socialism, Sanders did not invoke Marx. Instead he spoke of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

In particular, Sanders pointed to Roosevelt's great 1944 speech, in which he called for a Second Bill of Rights. As Roosevelt described it, the Second Bill includes a right to adequate medical care; a right to a good education; a right to protection against the fears of old age, sickness, accident and unemployment; a right to freedom from domination by monopolies; a right to earn enough to provide adequate food, clothing and recreation; and a right to a useful and remunerative job in the private sector.

Roosevelt contended that "economic security and independence" are essential to

individual freedom. Sanders endorsed that claim.

Sanders also spoke of economic inequality, emphasizing the extraordinary wealth of the top one-tenth of 1 percent, and the distress and difficulty faced by those at the bottom.

In his words, "Democratic socialism means that we must create an economy that works for all, not just the very wealthy." That means better access to health care, higher taxes on the wealthiest, better education opportunities for all, and an effort to "put millions of people back to work."

Reasonable people are drawn to all of those ideas. But please, let's not call them "socialist."

Roosevelt's own goal was to save capitalism, not to overthrow it. As he once put it, "One of my principal tasks is to prevent bankers and businessmen from committing suicide." He believed in what Democratic Rep. Joe Kennedy, of Massachusetts, is now calling "moral capitalism."

Roosevelt created the Social Security program. He insisted on a minimum wage. He fought to protect the interests of the working poor.

But FDR was firmly committed to private property and to free markets. He spoke of economic planning, and he even did a little — but he never embraced socialist-style planning.

The contemporary interest in "socialism" is (I think) mostly expressive. It is a way of raising the volume, pounding a fist and offering a signal — of saying, in shorthand, that the U.S. has far too much economic insecurity; that the current system is not working nearly well enough for millions of people; that incremental change is not enough; that bold thinking is in order.

Fair enough, and also true. But Roosevelt — the nation's greatest progressive — was no socialist. Those who now favor large-scale change should avoid a term, and a set of practices, that have so often endangered both liberty and prosperity.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Cass R. Sunstein is the author of "The Cost-Benefit Revolution" and a co-author of "Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness."

## What's the right penance for wearing blackface?

By CARLA HALL  
Los Angeles Times

On Wednesday, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring revealed that he too had appeared in blackface when he was a feckless 19-year-old at the University of Virginia. That came four days after Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's tortuous confession that he had dabbed on blackface to play Michael Jackson in a dance contest. And Liam Neeson's admission, in an interview published a week ago to promote his new movie, that he had wandered the streets seeking a black man — any black man — to beat up in order to avenge a friend's rape at the hands of another black man.

All this in less than a week. The succession of middle-aged white men confessing publicly to incidents of racist behavior feels like a sort of national mass revival meeting (or maybe group therapy session) where folks jump to their feet and bare their troubled souls.

And maybe that's good. It's remarkable to see well-known people who are usually very good at crafting fake public faces suddenly acknowledging their racism, and appearing to be honest and remorseful about their own misbehavior. All swear their actions have been packed up and stowed away in their pasts.

Of course, for the politicians at least, those past deeds were probably not buried so deeply that an enterprising reporter or blogger couldn't dig them up. Just days ago, Herring — who has said he hopes to run for governor of Virginia in 2021 — joined the chorus of people calling for Northam to resign over the blackface incident. It seems likely that his confession was designed as a hedge against some reporter outing him first.

Still, some kind of public reckoning is going on here. And that's a good thing. Because this kind of behavior is still going on.

A photo of a Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity member at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in blackface surfaced on social media last April just days after it was taken. A video of a smiling young white woman — a student at the University of Oklahoma — with black paint smeared on her face and hands while on campus was posted on social media just last month. She was expelled from her sorority and left school.

Are there rare occurrences? I hope so, but I fear not.

So what should all the people confessing to racist behavior in their lives do after they've confessed? Confession alone doesn't absolve you of your sins. I suggested in a recent blogpost that Neeson continue a public

conversation about what he had admitted to doing. And he has, to a certain extent. He talked openly about what happened in interviews on two national TV talk shows. (However, the entire red carpet event for the premiere of his movie, "Cold Pursuit," was suddenly canceled.) I think he should keep talking.

The people who have confessed to this hideousness should not be allowed to issue their apologies (however well-meant) and simply resume their public lives as if nothing happened. They should go on talking about these issues, addressing them publicly, wrestling with them publicly and helping guide everyone else to a better understanding of why blackface is racism — or why (although it seems pretty obvious) racism after any black man to avenge a crime by a specific black man is racism. Maybe that means doing town halls, speaking about public forums and keeping the conversation alive.

And there's another responsibility for Northam and Herring. I hope they taught their children (all of whom are young adults) that dressing up in blackface is not a harmless lar, but revolting racist behavior. Hopefully, we will never see any yearbook pictures of their kids in blackface.

Carla Hall is a Los Angeles Times editorial board member.



## OPINION

## First step is admitting we have a China problem

By ROBERT D. ATKINSON  
Special to The Washington Post

For the first 15 years after the Clinton administration shepherded China's accession to the World Trade Organization, China consistently flouted its obligations to uphold even the most basic tenets of fair play by keeping prices low or that the effects were inconsequential. Moreover, they feared that even criticizing China's unfair trade practices, much less pushing back against them, would spark a protectionist backlash domestically.

Well, guess what? It was this biased attitude and lack of real action to hold China accountable that ended up precipitating a protectionist backlash. Indeed, the frustration of millions of voters, especially in Midwestern swing states whose manufacturing economies were hurt by the competitive consequences of unfair Chinese trade practices, was the effecting Donald Trump in the White House, as MIT's David Autor has documented. For unlike Hillary Clinton, Trump gave voice to these voters'

concerns and pledged to take action.

Now that Trump is attempting to make the Chinese play by the rules, many in the Washington establishment are panicking. They argue that the trade war that China started and Trump joined will spiral out of control, leading to protectionism — if not complete isolationism — and an overall deterioration of the global trading system.

But rather than direct their ire at the administration's faulty tactics — tariffs, imposed unilaterally — many are missing the target and attacking the goal itself by attempting to minimize the past, present and future harm that will come from China's by-any-means-necessary strategy for achieving global pre-eminence in strategically important industries. In fact, many elite policy mavens argue that if there is any problem with competitiveness, then it's our own fault for failing to improve things such as K-12 schools and infrastructure.

Case in point is a recent op-ed by Lawrence H. Summers, a Washington Post contributor who was instrumental as treasury secretary in the Clinton administration in getting Congress to provide permanent normal trade relations to China after it joined the World Trade Organization. For Summers, anyone who worries about unfair Chinese practices, especially intellectual property theft and coerced technology transfer, is an "alarmist." Sum-

**Denying that China's actions pose a grave threat and placing the blame on ourselves will only fan the flames of protectionism and cause even greater harm.**

mers contends it is impossible to slow the flow of U.S. intellectual property to China and that it would be "counterproductive" anyway. He and other establishment figures are saying, in effect, "Move on. Nothing to see here."

But there is quite a lot to see here. In violation of its WTO obligations, China bestows massive subsidies to fortify domestic tech companies; it demands that international competitors enter into joint ventures with Chinese firms at the price of doing business in China; it picks the pockets of foreign firms to acquire trade secrets; and it favors Chinese companies in its domestic marketplace. Indeed, through cybertheft and old-fashioned corporate espionage, the Chinese government has stolen massive amounts of U.S. technical knowledge — the "greatest transfer of wealth in history," according to former National Security

Agency Director Keith Alexander.

This matters because global markets for advanced technology industries are largely fixed and inelastic, such that Chinese gains come at the expense of their foreign competitors' market share and jobs. So, when Chinese President Xi Jinping unabashedly trumpets the goal of making China the "master of its own technologies" and backs that up with a powerful, unfair arsenal of state policies, there should be no doubt that it poses an existential threat to the U.S. technology economy.

Rather than dismiss the threat Chinese innovation mercantilist practices pose to the U.S. economy, jobs and national security, the Washington establishment needs to publicly acknowledge that the threat is serious and that China needs to be confronted — not only to protect the U.S. economy and national security but also to save the very soul of the global trading system. Only then can we engage in a productive critique of the Trump administration's tactics, including its over-reliance on tariffs and its unwillingness to assemble a global coalition of the willing to pressure China to reform. Denying that China's actions pose a grave threat and placing the blame on ourselves will only fan the flames of protectionism and cause even greater harm.

Robert D. Atkinson is president of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, which has received funding from U.S. technology firms.

## Many unknowns on VA access-to-outside-care rules

By TOM PHILLIOTT  
Special to Stars and Stripes

The number of veterans eligible for health care services in their communities, using networks of private sector providers contracted by the Department of Veterans Affairs, is expected to jump this summer when regulations setting new access standards for community care become final.

Veteran service organizations and congressional committees with oversight responsibilities for VA contend that the bare-bones details released last month raise many more questions than they answer.

Top among them are whether the VA will have the budget dollars, the complex procedures and the enhanced administrative in place to avoid the kind of calamitous launch that scarred the Choice program from its inception in late 2014. The new access rules will be based on factors generally familiar to veterans who sought private sector care under Choice: average drive time to get VA care and wait times to get VA appointments. But a VA spokesman said the new access services "are based on an in-depth analysis of the access best-practices in both government and private-sector health care systems and tailored to the needs of our veteran patients."

Veterans will be eligible to use networks of local providers for primary care, mental health care and noninstitutional extended care services if their average drive time to get such care from VA is 30 minutes or longer. They will be allowed to use the outside providers for specialty care if average drive time to a VA specialist is 60 minutes or more.

Those rules will replace the more rigid distance rule under Choice that veterans must reside more than 40 miles from a VA facility with a primary-care provider. VA estimates that change alone will make 20 percent more veterans eligible for outside primary care and 31 percent more veterans eligible for noninstitutional extended care services if their average drive time under current community care programs

## MILITARY UPDATE

including Choice.

More veterans also will gain access to local providers using new wait-time triggers. Choice allows community-based care if veterans face waits for VA appointments longer than 30 days. The new standard will make them eligible to use the private sector if waits for VA appointments are longer than 20 days for primary care, mental health care and noninstitutional extended care services and longer than 28 days for specialty care.

The new access standards are only one of six criteria Congress approved to expand and reshape veterans' eligibility for community-based care under the mammoth VA Mission Act enacted last June. Regulations on access standards will be governed by more to govern community care in locales where VA services are unavailable; for veterans residing in states with no full-service VA medical facility; to ensure grandfather protections to veterans who gained access to noninstitutional extended care under the old Choice standard; to ensure community care decisions consider the medical best interest of patients; and to govern eligibility when VA determines one of its own medical service lines isn't providing care that meets VA quality standards.

On Jan. 31, VA published proposed rules on what is expected to be one of the most popular new benefits authorized by the Mission Act: veterans' access to designated civilian-run urgent care clinics without prior approval from VA.

Veterans enrolled in VA health care and needing treatment for a sore throat, a sprained ankle or a toothache will be able to wait until participating urgent care clinics rather than visit VA emergency care clinics or hospitals or schedule an appointment with their primary care provider.

The first three urgent care visits in a calendar year will be free to veterans with disabilities or other circumstances that

place them in Priority Groups 1 through 5 for accessing VA health care. Certain enrolled veterans in Group 6 and all veterans falling into Groups 7 and 8 will be charged a copay of \$30 for each visit.

To discourage overuse of urgent care, the \$30 copayment will be charged any veteran after their third walk-in visit, to include those with service-connected disabilities. That detail will be challenged by some veteran service organizations.

The urgent care regulation emphasizes that the new benefit is not to be used by veterans needing treatment for chronic conditions, which should continue to be managed through their primary care providers.

But the community care access rules are drawing the most attention from veterans groups and members of the Veterans Affairs committees on Capitol Hill. Many of them are complaining that after partnering with VA to shape community-care reform language in the Mission Act, they've been kept largely in the dark by VA Secretary Robert Wilkie and his staff during the months they drafted implementing rules.

As a result, the VA basic information details on access standards last month, many previously supportive lawmakers and veterans groups expressed only caution, claiming not to understand from preliminary briefings how decisions were made, how they will affect veterans and VA budgets, and how VA procedures and tools can be made ready in time to support a launch in June as planned.

Democrats on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee criticized Wilkie for lack of transparency and VA's failure to engage while preparing its new access rules.

"Once briefed, we were disappointed the VA couldn't proceed to the question on how the proposed wait and drive-time standards would affect the Department, the veterans who rely on it for care and the American taxpayer," the senators wrote in a Feb. 5 letter to Wilkie.

Carl Blake, executive director of Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Randy Reese, executive director of Disabled American Veterans, said in separate inter-

views that they have no choice but to remain cautious on the access standards.

Key questions to which VA needs answers, said Reese, are whether the access rules are fully funded, realistic and feasible to implement. One great unknown, he said, is whether VA-funded community provider networks will be sufficiently staffed to deliver faster, more convenient and quality care to veterans.

With revised network contracts delayed by challenges from a losing bidder, VA conceded that veterans' complaints that contractors haven't been able to produce market assessments on the availability of community care for veterans nationwide.

"The assumption is the VA can't and private providers can. But they don't know that that's true," Reese said.

Blake said another critical unknown is how VA intends to measure drive time or wait time. A 20-minute drive to a VA clinic at midnight might exceed 60 minutes in rush hour. The VA signaled it will adopt new computer software for the task, Blake said, but its record in information system upgrades does not inspire confidence.

Another issue, Blake said, is how the VA will resolve disputes with veterans who disagree with how their average drive time to nearby VA facilities was calculated.

He also worries that VA touts the fact that Tricare, the military health plan, also uses average drive time to determine eligibility. But Tricare uses drive time to make initial enrollment decisions, not "as a decision point for access to care," Blake said.

Perhaps the No. 1 concern about the new access standards, he added, is whether VA's budgets will be large enough to cover the significant jump in community-based medical costs expected from expanding access, ensuring that VA hospitals and clinics don't see their budgets get squeezed.

"I believe the answer to that right now is no," Blake said.

Sent comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA, 20120; email m.Updates@aol.com; or Twitter: @Military\_Update.

## WORLD

## A shattered town, scattered lives

Community near site of Fukushima nuclear disaster still struggling

By SIMON DENYER  
The Washington Post

NAMIE, Japan  
Noboru Honda lost 12 members of his extended family when a tsunami struck the Fukushima prefecture in northern Japan nearly eight years ago. Last year, he was diagnosed with cancer and initially given a few months to live.

Today, he is facing a third sorrow — watching what may be the last gasps of his hometown.

For six years, Namie was deemed unsafe after a multiple-reactor meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant following a 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

In March 2017, the government lifted its evacuation order for the center of Namie. But so far, hardly anyone has ventured back.

Its people are scattered and divided. Families are split. The sense of community is coming apart.

“It has been eight years; we were hoping things would be settled now,” said Honda, 66. “This is the worst time, the most painful period.”

For the people of Namie and other towns near the Fukushima plant, the pain is sharpened by the way the Japanese government is trying to move beyond the tragedy, to use the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as a symbol of hope and recovery, a sign that life can return to normal after a disaster of this magnitude.

Its charm offensive is also tied up with efforts to restart the country's nuclear power industry, one of the world's most extensive networks of atomic power generators.

Six Olympic softball games and a baseball game will be staged in Fukushima, the prefecture's bustling and radiation-free capital city, and the Olympic torch relay will start from here. But in Namie, much closer to the ill-fated nuclear plant, that celebration rings hollow, residents say.

### All gone

This was a close-knit community of farmers, fishermen and potters — of orchards, rice paddies and cattle sandwiched between the mountains and the sea. It was a place where people celebrated and mourned as a community, and families lived together across generations.

That's all gone. On the main street, a small new shopping arcade has opened. But a short walk away, a barber shop stands abandoned, its empty chairs gathering years of dust. A sign telling customers to make themselves at home is still displayed in a bar,



PHOTOS BY SHIHO FUKUDA/The Washington Post

Weeds grow in the parking lot of an abandoned restaurant along Route 6 in Japan, just outside the exclusion zone around the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, which suffered a multiple-reactor meltdown following a 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

but inside, debris litters the floor. A karaoke parlor is boarded up. Wild boars, monkeys and Asian palm civets still roam the streets, residents say.

Just 873 people, or under 5 percent, of an original population of 17,613 have returned. Many are scared — with some obvious justification — that their homes and surroundings are still unsafe. Most of the returnees are elderly. Only six children are enrolled at the gleaming new elementary school. This is not a place for young families.

Four-fifths of Namie's geographical area is mountain and forest, impossible to decontaminate, still deemed unsafe to return. When it rains, the radioactive cesium in the mountains flows into rivers and underground water sources close to the town.

### 'Unjustifiable levels'

Greenpeace has been taking thousands of radiation readings for years in the towns around the Fukushima nuclear plant. It says radiation levels in parts of Namie where evacuation orders have been lifted will remain well above international maximum safety recommendations for many decades, raising the risks of leukemia and other cancers to “unjustifiable levels,” especially for children.

In the rural areas around the town, radiation levels are much higher and could remain unsafe for people to live beyond the end of this century, Greenpeace concluded in a 2018 report.

“The scale of the problem is clearly not something the government wants to communicate to the Japanese people, and that's driving the whole issue of the return of evacuees,” said Shaun Burnie, senior nuclear specialist with Greenpeace. “The idea that an industrial accident closes off an area of Japan, with its limited habitable land, for generations and longer — that would just remind the public why they are right to be opposed to nuclear power.”



Noboru Honda, a local community leader in Namie, stands near the monument inscribed with the names of the victims of the disaster.

Today, Namie's former residents are scattered across all but one of Japan's 47 prefectures. Many live in the nearby town of Nihonmatsu, in comfortable but isolating apartment blocks where communal space and interaction are limited. With young people moving away, the elderly, who already feel the loss of Namie most acutely, find themselves even more alone.

“People are losing the purposes of living. The more time that passes, they feel their dignity as human beings is lost,” said Shigeru Sasaki, a former farmer from Namie.

### Lack of amenities

“As a community, we were already suffering from an aging population,” said Katsunobu Sakurai, former mayor of the nearby town of Minamisoma. “Now, the damage is more severe because young people are not returning. The elderly who come back feel pessimism and depression. The biggest tragedy now is the high rate of suicides.”

Kazuhiko Yoshida, the embattled mayor of Namie, said fears about radiation are not the only reason people aren't returning; many complain the deserted town lacks amenities.

He has managed to get a medical clinic reopened and hopes a

supermarket will finally reopen despite the lack of residents. But an elder-care facility remains shuttered because the owner can barely find workers, he said.

“For the past eight years, we have seen the destruction of the area, the destruction of the community, and it will be difficult to bring people back,” he said. “But throughout history, we have been through many hardships. If we give up, we would lose our town, and as mayor, I will work with all my heart to prevent that.”

But many residents say the central government is being heavy-handed in its attempts to convince people to return, failing to support residents' efforts to build new communities in places like Nihonmatsu and then ending compensation payments within a year of evacuation orders being lifted.

### 'Everyone is upset'

“We are upset. Everyone is upset,” said Sasaki, the former farmer.

In other towns around the nuclear plant, people have complained that arbitrarily decided compensation payouts — more for people deemed to have been in radiation-affected zones, far less for tsunami victims, nothing for people just a mile outside the zone most



NOCA AMH-ant/Stars and Stripes

affected — have divided communities and caused resentment and friction.

The government is building and fortifying sea walls along hundreds of miles of the Pacific coast to prevent another tsunami from wreaking havoc, but some residents say they weren't consulted and aren't happy about being shut off from the sea.

“This is a place desperate to attract people to return, but this reduces our attractiveness for young people,” said Riken Komatsu, in the fishing port of Onahama, who is working to rebuild a sense of community and raise awareness about problems with the reconstruction effort.

Komatsu said reconstruction has been imposed from above, a problem he said reflects, in a broader sense, what Japan is like.

“We are going through a second sense of loss because this is not the reconstruction we wanted,” he said.

Today, Honda's home, ruined by the tsunami, has been bulldozed to make way for new houses. But so far, none has been built.

“We were driven out of our community, and had it destroyed,” he said. “We asked the town and the prefecture to re-create a community for us, away from home, but we were not listened to.”

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Woman gets 2 years in theft at gun shop

**CO** DENVER — A woman was sentenced to more than two years in prison for helping her son steal at least 57 guns from a southern Colorado store in 2017.

U.S. Attorney Jason Dunn's office said Jennifer Scoggin, 35, was sentenced Thursday to two years and two months in prison after pleading guilty in October to firearms theft.

According to court records, Scoggin lured the owner of Dragon Arms gun store in El Paso County away from the store during the planned burglary. Prosecutors said Scoggin's son and three other people then broke in and stole handguns, shotguns and rifles.

Three of the burglary codefendants have received time served sentences.

## Students don wigs to honor Bob Ross

**TX** ABILENE — There were lots of happy little trees at a Texas middle school last week.

Art students at Madison Middle School in Abilene donned their curliest wigs and painted little trees onto canvases to pay homage to the late painter Bob Ross. Teacher Brady Sloane told the Abilene Reporter News the idea came about because she wanted to reward Advanced Placement students who had been stressed out over recent projects and grades.

The result was a flash mob Thursday of about four dozen students who wore wigs and blue, button-down shirts and held palettes of paint. An episode of Ross' television show, "The Joy of Painting," was projected onto a large screen.

## Strippers charged with stealing officer's gun

**RI** PAWTUCKET — Police and court records say two Rhode Island strip club dancers charged with stealing a Boston police officer's gun are alleging the officer paid them \$2,500 for sex.

The Providence Journal reported the records say the two women told authorities Boston officer Emanuel Brandao arranged a "date" with them on Feb. 2 that ended at a Pawtucket hotel.

The records say Brandao told police he and the women were "hanging out" and he discovered his gun was missing after they left. The gun was found at a fire station.

The Providence women — Neish Rivera, 25, and Melissa Dacier, 22 — were detained on larceny and conspiracy charges.

The Journal also reported Brandao is on paid leave pending an investigation.

## Employee charged with stealing diabetes strips

**NY** ROCHESTER — A western New York man was arrested on charges of using his job as a buyer for CVS to steal \$2.5 million worth of diabetes test strips.

U.S. Attorney James P. Ken-

## THE CENSUS

# 40

The number of impounded scooters police said they suspect a man stole from an a storage area at the University of Missouri in December. Anthony Hamilton, 32, of Columbia, Mo., is charged with first-degree trespassing and second-degree property damage. The Columbia Missouri reported that campus police on Thursday stopped Hamilton and recognized him as someone who was considered a suspect in the scooter thefts.



TOM STROME, THE BISMARCK (N.D.) TRIBUNE/AP

## Frosty view

A student in Mandan, N.D., is framed in the frosty window of a school bus.

ney Jr. alleged Antonio Rivera, 35, ordered excess boxes of the test strips for the Rochester CVS store where he worked and sold them to third-party purchasers. Kennedy said an internal CVS audit could not account for 20,203 boxes of diabetes test strips purchased by Rivera worth approximately \$2.5 million.

Prosecutors said forensic accounting found that payments for the fraudulently obtained test strips had been deposited into Rivera's bank accounts.

Rivera made an initial appearance before Judge Marian W. Payson on Friday and was released.

## Nonprofit rescues calf from family's bathroom

**NC** CHARLOTTE — A North Carolina nonprofit known for its unusual rescues said it extricated a newborn calf from a family's bathroom after a relative of the man keeping it pleaded for help.

The Charlotte Observer reported the Carolina Waterfowl Rescue said it learned of the calf's plight from a social media message, adding that a photo showed the calf standing on a hay-covered bathroom floor in an Asheville area home.

Jennifer Gordon, of Carolina

Waterfowl Rescue, said it responded to the message on Jan. 29 by sending someone to get the calf, which was suffering from dehydration and diarrhea. It wasn't clear why the calf was in the bathroom.

## Prosecutors: Man lived with dad's corpse

**OK** THE VILLAGE — An Oklahoma man is facing charges after authorities said he lived for more than a month in a home with his father's decomposing body and cashed the dead man's retirement checks.

Oklahoma County prosecutors charged Lynn Little, 50, on Thursday with forgery, embezzlement, neglect and desecration of a corpse.

Police were dispatched Jan. 12 to Little's home in the Oklahoma City suburb of The Village, where they found the body of William Little, 89.

Lynn Little told police his father died before Thanksgiving. He is not charged in connection with the elder Little's death.

## Police: Man stole cruiser after overdose

**OH** COLUMBUS — Police in Ohio's capital city

said a man stole a police cruiser just minutes after officers revived him from an overdose.

Columbus police on Friday were searching for the 25-year-old man who crashed the cruiser and then ran away.

The Columbus Dispatch reported officers responded to a home Friday morning after being called about an overdose.

Officers revived the man and then put him in an ambulance while officers checked whether he had any outstanding arrest warrants.

Police said the man got out of the ambulance, stole the cruiser and crashed just a few miles away.

## Towing vessel sinks on Ohio River; crew safe

**WV** HUNTINGTON — The U.S. Coast Guard said a towing vessel sunk on the Ohio River between Ohio and West Virginia.

The Coast Guard said in a news release Friday night that all three crewmembers aboard the towing vessel Ed McLaughlin were reported in stable condition at a local hospital. The news release said an estimated 4,900 gallons of diesel fuel was on board, and light sheening was reported around

the vessel.

Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Huntington was heading to the scene to determine whether there was a fuel leak. The tow is owned by McGinnis Marine.

The news release said the Coast Guard received a report at 1 p.m. that the vessel capsized on the river at mile marker 259. The location is northeast of Huntington, near Cheshire, Ohio, and across the river from Mason County, W.Va.

## Police: Woman used box cutter in attack

**AR** LITTLE ROCK — Police in Arkansas said a woman was arrested Wednesday on charges that she used a box cutter to attack two women as they attended a family funeral.

The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette cited police records in reporting that Terra M. Horton, 32, of Little Rock is facing two counts of second-degree battery following the December attack at a Baptist church in North Little Rock.

Authorities said the two victims were taken to an emergency room where they needed dozens of staples to close their wounds.

From wire reports



## FACES



Will Arnett, above, has a distinctly deep, raspy voice that led to a lot of voice-over work early in his career.

Courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

# Seriously funny

## Will Arnett plays Batman straight to get the laughs in 'Lego Movie 2'

By RICK BENTLEY

Tribune News Service

Will Arnett's secret to making Batman so funny in the "Lego" movies is he's not trying to be funny. He's playing the animated version of the comic book hero with the same seriousness as Michael Keaton or Christian Bale.

"Whatever kind of success I have enjoyed as Batman in the Lego incarnation has been paved by the other guys who came before and done such a great job," Arnett says in his distinctly deep and raspy voice. "My Batman wouldn't have been as good if they had not been so successful. I like taking what they have done and the rules of Batman and bending them. That is the fun for sure. A lot of ways, I try to out-serious how serious those guys are in absurd situations."

"The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part," which was released Feb. 8, picks up five years after the first film. The Lego city's residents have come under attack by an outside force so devastating they now live in a dystopian world. This could be changing as a visitor arrives with plans for a wedding between Batman and the queen of the other world. It is up to the ever-positive Emmet (voiced by Chris Pratt) and Wyldstyle (Elizabeth Banks) to save Batman and their world.

Part of the absurdity of the new film is once again when Batman sings. This time it is a rap about love and marriage.

"If I wink at the audience or tip my hat, it wouldn't work," Arnett says. "If I take the musical number completely seriously, then it works."

Batman is just Arnett's most recent voice work. Long before he was part of any of the Lego projects or "Monsters vs. Aliens," "Ratatouille," "The Nut Job," "Despicable Me" or "BoJack Horseman," he worked in commercials. He had been told all his life he had an unusual voice, but it wasn't until he moved to New York that he looked into jobs as a voice talent.

"Acting was the thing that I always wanted to do. I didn't even know what voice-over work was," Arnett says. "I started doing a lot of commercials but it never really occurred to me that it could become this. I never saw myself getting into animation."

"I ended up having a great voice-over career in New York for the bulk of my 20s. Once I got into my 30s, I started doing some of the animation stuff and then the live-action stuff took off."

One of the best parts of working on projects like "The Lego Movie

2" is that he gets years to work. Arnett will go into the recording booth and spend hours doing the lines for the entire movie in a multitude of ways. Then, months later, he returns to the booth to record more lines as the story will often change. The process continues until the directors have just the right words.

Arnett knows all too well how much an animated film can change. All of the voice work Arnett and Amy Poehler had done at the beginning of "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" was scrapped when the project took a different direction. His efforts weren't a total loss, as it was through that project Arnett met Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, who directed and wrote "The Lego Movie" and penned the sequel.

"Out of the blue, Phil and Chris called to tell me they were doing the Lego movie and they wanted me to play Batman," Arnett says. "I told them I don't know what you mean when you say the Lego movie. A movie about a toy? But, I told them I am in."

The credit list for Arnett as a voice talent is extremely long, but the Canadian-American actor, comedian and producer is best known for his work on "Arrested Development." Being part of the comedy series for Arnett has felt like the bridge between his voice and onscreen work. That's because to Arnett, "Arrested Development" has a very cartoonlike feel to it.

"For me, what seems to work comedically in my own experience, has been to make sure no matter how crazy or absurd a character is, I always know he seriously believes in what he's doing," Arnett says.



Courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

## Versatile British actor Albert Finney dies at 82

Associated Press

Albert Finney, one of the most respected and versatile actors of his generation and the star of films as diverse as "Tom Jones" and "Skyfall," has died at 82. From his early days as a handsome, magnetic screen presence to his closing acts as a brilliant character actor, Finney was a British treasure known for charismatic work on stage and screen.

Finney's family said Feb. 8 that he "passed away peacefully after a short illness with those closest to him by his side." He died from a chest infection at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, a cancer treatment center.

Finney burst into international fame in 1963 in the title role of "Tom Jones," playing a lusty, humorous rogue who captivated audience with his charming, devil-may-care antics.

He excelled in many other roles, including "Saturday Night and Sunday Morning," a 1960 drama that was part of the "angry young man" film trend.

Finney was a rare star who managed to avoid the Hollywood limelight despite more than five decades of worldwide fame.

"Tom Jones" gained him the first of five Oscar nominations. Other nominations followed for "Murder on the Orient Express," "The Dresser," "Under the Volca-



AP

Albert Finney puffs a cigar in 1981 on the New York set of "Annie." Finney was nominated for five Oscars.

no" and "Erin Brockovich." Each time he fell short.

In later years he brought authority to bid-budget and high-grossing action movies, including the James Bond thriller "Skyfall" and two of the Bourne films. He also won hearts as Daddy Warbucks in "Annie." He played an array of roles, including Winston Churchill, Pope John Paul II, a southern American lawyer and an Irish gangster.

In one of his final roles, as the gruff Scotsman, Kincade, in "Skyfall," he shared screen time with Daniel Craig as Bond and Judi Dench as M, turning the film's final scenes into a master class of character acting.

"The world has lost a giant," Craig said.

## Lee boycotts Gucci, Prada over blackface fashion fails

Associated Press

Director Spike Lee said Feb. 8 he will no longer wear Gucci or Prada until the brands hire some black designers following a pair of blackface fashion fails from the major Italian fashion houses.

Lee said on Instagram that "It's Obvious To Da Peoples That They Don't Have A Clue When It Comes To Racist, Blackface Hateful Imagery. WAKE UP."

Spike said the brands needed to hire black designers "To Be In Da Room When It Happen."

His personal boycott in the midst of movie awards season was a powerful message to luxury fashion houses that are already suffering backlashes for designs evoking racist images.

Lee denounced Gucci on the Venice Film Festival red carpet last September, following up with a stop by the Prada womenswear preview show in Milan later in the month decked out in a black Prada suit.

Gucci this week apologized for a high-neck black wool sweater that featured bright red lips when pulled over the face, while Prada apologized for a monkey bag charm resembling blackface in December. Both brands withdrew the offending pieces from sale on both websites and stores.

Prada said it "abhors all forms of racism," while Gucci called it "a powerful learning moment for the Gucci team and beyond."



JOEL C. RYAN, INVISION/AP

The timing of director Spike Lee's boycott — Hollywood awards season — puts extra heat on luxury fashion houses.

The blackface images have particular resonance in the U.S. at a time when the governor of Virginia and his attorney general have been caught up in a scandal over blackface incidents from their college days in the 1980s. The offensive depictions are reminiscent of traveling minstrels from the 19th century, who would paint their faces black to portray African characters in a ridiculous and mocking fashion.

### Other news

■ Universal Pictures said Feb. 8 that the long-awaited movie version of the hit musical "Wicked" will land in theaters on Dec. 22, 2021. It had originally been on the schedule for this December. Stephen Daldry is still set to direct the film, with Marc Platt producing.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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## BUSINESS/WEATHER

# It's business as usual for Amazon despite CEO drama

By JOSEPH PISANI  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — First it was a heart-wrenching tweet that he and his wife were getting a divorce after 25 years. Then a tabloid revealed that he'd been having an affair, releasing texts and photos of him and his mistress.

As if either of those weren't distracting enough, now Jeff Bezos — the world's richest man and CEO of Amazon — is accusing The National Enquirer in a blog post of trying to blackmail him by threatening to release more intimate photos of him unless he calls off an investigation into how that information was obtained in the first place.

But despite the all-consuming personal drama, analysts and experts don't expect it to make much difference to Amazon, the company Bezos has steered from an online bookstore two decades ago to a worldwide juggernaut.

Michael Pachter, an analyst at Wedbush Securities, estimates the impact on the company to be "0.000 percent."

"I'm certain investors won't care," he said.

Others point out that Bezos has been able to balance his responsibilities at the helm of the world's largest online retailer while also juggling his other pursuits: running a space exploration company and owning The Washington Post, one of the nation's most influential newspapers.

"He's extraordinarily driven," said Chris McCabe, who used to work at Amazon and now runs

**"This is very much a matter of Jeff Bezos. It's not really anything to do with running the company."**

Neil Saunders  
managing director at GlobalData Retail

ecommerce Chris, a consultancy for Amazon sellers. "He knows how to delegate."

Amazon has a steady line of longtime executives who are running each of its businesses, likely keeping investors calm.

Jeffrey Wilke oversees the retail business, and Andrew Jassy runs the company's fast-growing cloud computing business Amazon Web Services. Both of them have been at the company since the 1990s. And unlike other CEOs, Bezos doesn't speak at conference calls with analysts and investors after the company releases its financial reports, leaving that to Chief Financial Officer Brian Olsavsky, who has been at the company since 2002.

Still, that hasn't stopped the Enquirer from casting doubts over whether Bezos can effectively oversee his company.

"All of these (text) messages raise serious questions about Bezos' judgment as the CEO of the most valuable company in the world," the tabloid said in a Jan. 24 article.

Seattle-based Amazon.com Inc. declined to comment on Bezos. The company's stock did not take a big hit, slipping 1.6 percent at

Friday's close.

Meanwhile, the Enquirer's publisher, American Media Inc., is disputing Bezos' claims that it used "extortion and blackmail" in reporting its story, saying that it "acted lawfully."

In his blog post Thursday, Bezos defended his ability to lead Amazon.

"I founded Amazon in my garage 24 years ago, and drove all the packages to the post office myself," he wrote. "Today, Amazon employs more than 600,000 people, just finished its most profitable year ever, even while investing heavily in new initiatives, and it's usually somewhere between the #1 and #5 most valuable company in the world. I will let those results speak for themselves."

He also said he wants to focus on work, noting that the person he hired to handle the investigation into how his texts were leaked to the Enquirer will also be tasked with "protecting" his time.

"I have other things I prefer to work on," Bezos wrote.

Bezos' indiscretions are seen more as a personal matter rather than one to do with the company, unlike Tesla's CEO Elon Musk,



CURF OWEN/AP

**Jeff Bezos, Amazon founder and CEO, speaks at an event in Washington in September. Analysts say his recent personal drama is unlikely to affect Amazon.**

for example, whose behavior has caused the electric automaker's stock to rise and fall. Musk was recently stripped of his chairman title and forced to pay a \$20 million penalty to the Securities and Exchange Commission for allegedly duping investors with tweets about a plan to take the company private.

"This is very much a matter of Jeff Bezos," said Neil Saunders, the managing director at GlobalData Retail. "It's not really anything to do with running the company."

David Larcker, a professor at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, said it's up to shareholders and the board of directors to decide just how engaged a CEO is in their work and whether they should go. Bezos is both chairman of the board and the largest shareholder, owning a 16 percent stake in the company.

Amazon's shoppers, meanwhile, are not likely to take notice.

"I think as long as people can get their Nespresso pods within 48 hours, they don't care," said Scott Galloway, a marketing professor at NYU Stern School of Business.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 11)	\$1.1636
Dollar buys (Feb. 11)	69.8594
British pound (Feb. 11)	\$1.33
Japanese yen (Feb. 11)	93.30
South Korean won (Feb. 11)	1,097.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2940
Canada (Dollar)	1.3277
China (Yuan)	6.7449
Denmark (Krone)	6.5828
Egypt (Pound)	17.6019
Euro	\$1.1337/0.8821
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8468
Hungary (Forint)	381.02
Israel (Shekel)	3.6378
Japan (Yen)	109.73
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3037
Norway (Krone)	8.6090
Philippines (Peso)	52.19
Poland (Zloty)	3.80
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7599
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3552
South Korea (Won)	1,122.56
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0007
Thailand (Baht)	31.57
Turkey (Lira)	5.2521

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, or nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	4.00
3-month bill	2.37
30-year bond	2.97

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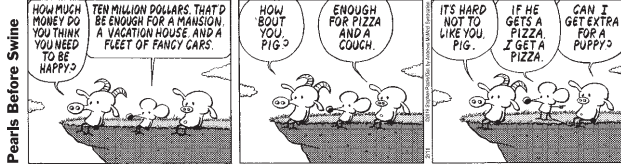
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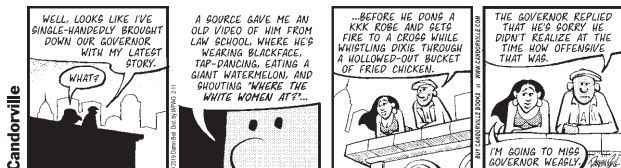
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Non Sequitur



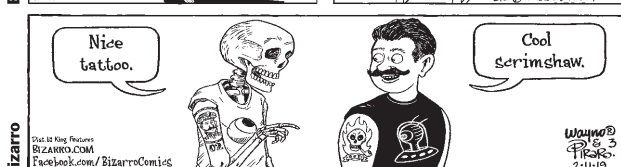
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro

## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
			18				19		20	
21	22	23					24			
25			26		27		28		29	30
31			32		33		34		35	
36			37		38		39		40	
			41				42		43	
45	46						47			
48					49		50		51	52
54					55				56	
57					58				59	

### ACROSS

- Pool stick
- Gasoline dispensers
- Attorney's field
- "Right you —!"
- Not moving
- Blond shade
- Online reference source
- Carefree
- By way of
- Pancake toppers
- Museum tour guide
- Hari
- Swelled head
- Solidity
- Semesters
- Stately trees
- Homer's neighbor
- Mt. Rushmore's state
- Seized vehicles
- Dict. info
- Sundial numeral
- Hgt.
- Ancient pyramid builders
- Bale
- Mineral suffix
- Days of yore
- Sibelius work or vodka brand

### DOWN

- Crow's cry
- Mentalist Geller
- "A spider!"
- Slipcover trim
- Like leftovers
- Club —
- Spectrum creator
- Patronize, as a hotel
- New York airport
- Now, in a memo
- Reasons
- "— been had!"
- 20 Numbered rds.
- Woodland grazer
- Leer at
- Summaries
- Went first
- Primary
- Tackles moguls
- Auctioneer's cry
- Cecil B. —
- Arm's-length portrait
- Femme —
- 42 Ore layers
- Longing
- Smile broadly
- Forearm bone
- Rebel Turner
- Morning moisture
- de-France
- Succor

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

D	A	B	A	R	A	T	S	N	A	P
O	N	E	S	O	L	E	L	A	C	E
R	D	A	H	O	A	R	A	I	N	T
M	I	N	O	R	M	I	R	A	C	L
			W	A	S		I	N	K	
P	S	A	L	M		O	F	T		D
A	I	M	S		H	A	Y		F	U
T	R	Y		G	I	T		S	I	O
			G	A	P		S	P	A	
S	M	A	L	L	P	O	T	A	T	O
A	U	T	O		I	S	I	T		N
S	L	O	W		E	L	L	E		U
H	E	M	S		S	O	T	S		S

### 2-11

### CRYPTOQUIP

LMHB EAHXBLVM CEVI YVEJHEW  
YNV'TH OHHM SLTHM BNH  
AVO VC EHVTLMS NRWJW

CEVI XVEM: "WNRXJW!"  
Saturday's Cryptoquip: NEW DEVICE THAT PUMPS OUT THE PERFECT AMOUNT OF MOUTHWASH EVERY TIME: A SCOPE DISPENSER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals N


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## SPORTS BRIEFS/NHL

## Briefly

## Vonn takes bronze in last race of her career

Associated Press

ARE, Sweden—One last comeback complete. One last medal.

Five days after crashing in super-G, Lindsey Vonn bounced back to win the bronze medal in the world championship downhill Sunday in the final race of her career.

"I lost it all on the line. That's all I wanted to do today," Vonn said. "I have to admit I was a little bit nervous, probably the most nervous I've ever been in my life. I wanted to finish strong so badly."

It's a medal that brings Vonn full circle: the American's two silvers at the 2007 worlds on the same course in Are were the first two major championship medals of her career.

"She has been business as usual this whole week, saying I'm racing to win," said Karin Kildow, Vonn's sister. "I was like, 'Just maybe make it down and maybe stand up.' But she was like, 'No, I'm going full out.' She was definitely in the mindset to push it and she really did."

When Vonn crossed the finish line she waved and bowed to the crowd.

"I had a really hard time controlling my nerves and I never have a hard time with that. I'm just happy I made it to the finish and I came down in the lead, which was nice for my last race," Vonn said. "I'm also safe. I made it down safely. My boyfriend and my family are happy."

Vonn had been planning on retiring in December but she recently moved up her retirement plans due to persistent pain in both of her surgically repaired knees.

As soon as she exited the finish area, Vonn embraced Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark, the only skier to win more World Cup races than Vonn—86 to 82. "I'm happy that I could finish strong. I'm happy there are so many people here," Vonn said. "I wish my mom and my brother and my sister could be here, but half the family is here so that's good. I soaked it all in. I waved to the crowd one last time. Ingemar being in the finish area was literally the best thing that's ever happened in my life."

Ilika Stuebec of Slovenia defended her title from the 2017 worlds, finishing 0.23 seconds ahead of Corinne Suter of Switzerland and 0.49 ahead of Vonn.

## UFC 234: Adesanya wins, Whittaker out

MELBOURNE, Australia — Robert Whittaker provided most of the early drama at UFC 234 in Australia and Israel Adesanya quite a lot at the end.

About eight hours before their scheduled fight, Australia's UFC middleweight champion Whittaker withdrew from his championship defense against Kelvin

Gastelum because of a serious abdominal injury and subsequent emergency surgery due to a perforated hernia.

That moved up the highly anticipated No. 1 contender match between rising New Zealand star Adesanya and Brazilian veteran Anderson Silva (34-9) to the main event on the sold-out Rod Laver Arena card.

In an evenly matched fight over the first two rounds, Adesanya landed the first blow—an outside kick to Silva's leg—then followed it up with a kick to his opponent's right thigh, but Silva fought back with two shots to Adesanya's chin. Despite the late flurry, Adesanya appeared to have marginally taken the first round.

Silva appeared to have won the second round, and chants for the Brazilian went up in the crowd to start the third and final round. But Adesanya, now 16-0, dominated the third for a unanimous decision, 29-28, 30-27, 30-27.

"This is like, for a kid, if I played basketball against Michael Jordan, this is it for me," Adesanya said. "Anderson, thank you. You've been doing this for a long time my friend, I appreciate you."

## 3 arrested in Croatia after water polo attack

ZAGREB, Croatia—A Croatian police on Sunday announced suspects over an attack on Serbian water polo team players that forced one to jump into the freezing sea to get away.

The incident in the Croatian Adriatic port of Split, which occurred on Saturday before a regional league match between Mornar Split and Red Star Belgrade, further strained relations between Serbia and Croatia. The Serbian team returned to Belgrade without playing the match.

Tensions are still high between the two Balkan neighbors after their war in the 1990s.

## Spurrier wins AAF opener as a coach

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Head Ball Coach is back, lighting up the scoreboard and selling the Alliance of American Football.

And fans—at least those in Orlando who showed up in the rain for Steve Spurrier's debut in the new league Saturday night—were eager to buy.

The 73-year-old coach returned to the sideline for the first time since abruptly walking away from the college game in 2015, bringing along an entertaining style of offense that didn't disappoint an announced crowd of 20,191 for the AAF opener between the Orlando Apollos and Atlanta Legends.

There was just enough razzle-dazzle and imaginative play-calling in the Apollos' 40-6 victory over the Legends to excite the faithful.



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Pittsburgh right wing Patric Hornqvist, left, and Tampa Bay defenseman Erik Cernak battle along the boards during the Lightning's 5-4 win Saturday in Tampa, Fla.

## NHL roundup

## Lightning edge Penguins

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Tyler Johnson and JT Miller had third-period goals and Tampa Bay beat Pittsburgh 5-4 to end a two-game skid.

Yanni Gourde, Erik Cernak and Anthony Cirelli also scored for the NHL-leading Lightning. They reached 40 wins for the sixth consecutive season.

Tanner Pearson, Garrett Wilson, Jared McCann and Bryan Rust scored for the Penguins. Sidney Crosby played in his 916th game, moving past Mario Lemieux for the most in Penguins history.

**Sharks 5, Oilers 2:** Kevin Lacombe had his first career hat trick and San Jose won at Edmonton for its fifth straight victory.

Evander Kane and Tomas Hertl also scored, and Aaron Dell made 21 saves.

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Zack Kassian scored for the Oilers. They have lost seven of eight.

**Panthers 5, Capitals 4 (OT):** Mike Hoffman scored on a power play in overtime and Roberto Luongo made 26 saves to help Florida win at Washington.

With Brett Connolly in the penalty box for slashing late in regulation, Hoffman scored 1:31 into overtime. The Panthers have the NHL's top power play since Nov. 1. Derrick Brassard scored his second goal in four games since Florida acquired him in a deal with Pittsburgh on Feb. 1.

**Islanders 4, Avalanche 3 (OT):** Ryan Pulock scored his second goal of the game 2:23 into overtime to lift host New York past Colorado.

Jordan Eberle had a goal and an assist, Josh Bailey also scored, and Robin Lehner stopped 25 shots. The Islanders are 8-1-2 in their last 11 games.

**Blues 3, Predators 2:** Vladimir Tarasenko scored his 19th goal, rookie Jordan Binnington made 28 saves and host St. Louis beat Nashville for its fifth straight victory.

Vince Dunn and Mackenzie MacEachern also scored.

Mattias Ekholm and Ryan Johansen scored for the Predators. The teams will meet again Sunday in Nashville.

**Maple Leafs 4, Canadiens 3 (OT):** John Tavares scored at 2:17 of overtime to lift Toronto to a win at Montreal.

Andreas Johansson, Nikita Zaitsev and William Nylander also scored to help the Maple Leafs extend their winning streak to four games. Frederik Andersen stopped 35 shots.

Andrew Shaw, Tomas Tatar and Brendan Gallagher scored for the Canadiens. Carey Price made 28 saves and lost for the first time since Jan. 10.

**Canucks 4, Flames 3 (SO):** Elias Pettersson scored the shootout winner, lifting host Vancouver over Calgary.

Canucks goalie Gabe Markstrom stopped 44 of 47 shots and had three more saves in the shootout. Bo Horvat, Josh Leivo and Brock Boeser scored for Vancouver in regulation.

The victory snapped a three-game losing skid for Calgary. Elias Lindholm, Sam Bennett and Andrew Mangiapane scored for the Canucks, who lost their second straight.

**Wild 4, Devils 2:** Former Devils star Zach Parise scored the go-ahead goal and Minnesota won at New Jersey to snap a four-game losing streak.

Linenates Marcus Foligno, Joel Eriksson Ek and Luke Kunin also scored for the Wild, and Devan Dubnyk made 16 saves.

**Bruins 5, Kings 4 (OT):** Patrice Bergeron scored a power-play goal at 2:34 of overtime to lift host Boston past Los Angeles.

Brad Marchand, David Krejci and Danton Heinen scored in a 3:22 span early in the third period to give the Bruins a 4-2 edge. The Kings rallied to tie it on goals by Nate Thomson and Oscar Fantenberg.

**Coyotes 3, Stars 2:** Alex Galchenyuk scored twice and assisted on Alex Goligoski's goal, and Darcy Kuemper stopped 33 shots to help host Arizona beat Dallas.

The Coyotes ended a five-game losing streak, and a nine-game slide against the Stars. Brett Ritchie and Alexander Radulov scored late goals for the Stars.

**Senators 5, Jets 2:** Winnipeg native Mark Stone scored twice to help host Ottawa beat the Jets. Matt Duchene, Ryan Dzingel and Zack Smith also scored, and Anders Nilsson made 44 saves. Bryan Little and Josh Morrissey scored for Winnipeg. The Jets have lost three straight for the first time this season.

**Sabres 3, Red Wings 1:** Casey Mittelstadt and Kyle Okposo scored power-play goals and host Buffalo topped Detroit.

Conor Sheary also scored for the Sabres, and Linus Ullmark stopped 28 shots. Dylan Larkin scored for the Red Wings.

**Blue Jackets 4, Golden Knights 3:** Cam Atkinson scored two goals less than three minutes apart to lead Columbus to a win at Las Vegas.

Josh Anderson and Artemi Panarin also scored for the Blue Jackets. Sergei Bobrovsky made 20 saves.

Nate Schmidt, Jon Merrill and Cody Eakin scored for the Golden Knights while Marc-Andre Fleury made 29 saves.





# HIGH SCHOOL



NORMAN LLAMAS/Stars and Stripes

Vilseck's Jada Llamido attempts to take down Rota's Kaden Rodriguez. Llamido won the 126-pound match and took first at the southern wrestling sectional at Vicenza, Italy.

## Top wrestlers qualify for European championships

By NORMAN LLAMAS  
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — For the most part, coaches and wrestlers had a pretty good idea who the top wrestler in each of the 14 weight classes was going into the southern section qualifier on Saturday.

The rest of the field was pretty much up for grabs.

"In wrestling, anything can happen, any given day," Aviano coach Robin Clement said. "I have a young team so, I knew coming into the season we weren't going to win the championship."

Aviano did have something to cheer about. Two wrestlers took first place: Ethan Herrera in the 113-pound class and Michael Hauser at 145.

Hauser beat Ankara's lone wrestler, Roberts Swart, a junior from one of DODEA's smallest schools and originally from South Africa. The match was one of the few that the entire gym turned their undivided attention to, as they cheered on both wrestlers.

Despite the second-place finish, Swart did advance to the championship meet. It is likely that he will end up facing Hauser yet again next weekend in Wiesbaden, Germany.

One wrestler that seemingly everyone knew was going to advance with ease was Sigonella's Amari Pyatt. The transfer from Nebraska has dominated his matches all season.

Sigonella coach Justen Estes said he expected at least six of wrestlers to earn spots in next week's championships, and seven finished in the top 4.

Depending on how many wrestlers were in each weight class, the top one, two or three placers advanced automatically. Others could be selected as wild-card entries.

Among the matches that drew the most attention were ones involving Vilseck 126-pounder Jada Llamido. From the moment she took on her first opponent, the crowd was clearly on her side.

Llamido went unbeaten and won her weight class. Three other Vilseck wrestlers also took first place, and 13 finished in the top four.

"The season went well and today really met our expectations," coach Jim Hall said. "Our wrestlers

won four out of five championship matches. We are looking forward to the finals. We plan on having at least 12 wrestlers in the finals."

Jada's brother, Tony, went undefeated during the season.

Like Vilseck, Naples is also looking to turn some heads.

Augusto De Sousa Matos competes in the 220-pound bracket and won first place.

"For us, things went well today," Vito Vitulli, Naples coach, said. "I think we have a nice group going to the European championship. We will probably have 10 wrestlers going."

Elsewhere:

DODEA Europe's two largest wrestling programs threw their weight around in their respective sectional qualifying meets on Saturday.

Reigning Division I dynasty Stuttgart not only hosted the central region's qualifier but also thoroughly dominated it. The Panthers pushed through 17 automatic qualifiers, including at least one in 13 of the 14 weight classes. Stuttgart grapplers took first place in nine weight classes.

That showing gives the Panthers a solid base from which to pursue a sixth consecutive Division I European team championship. But the team that figures to be their toughest obstacle, the Ramstein Royals, enjoyed an even stronger Saturday. Ramstein dominated the northern sectional at Brussels, qualifying 25 wrestlers for the European finals. At least one Royal advanced out of all 14 weight classes, and 11 weight classes saw two Ramstein wrestlers advance.

While Ramstein has the edge as of now, those numbers will change early this week as DODEA Europe officials fill out the European championship brackets with wild-card selections, which should include another healthy haul of Panthers and Royals. Wiesbaden, which will host the European championship meet Friday and Saturday at Clay Kaserne, enjoyed eight automatic qualifiers at the central meet. Division III contender Hofenhofen pushed through three qualifiers at Stuttgart.

Lakenheath and SHAPE, the other two Division I schools present at Brussels alongside Ramstein, each earned five automatic European bids.

## Balanced Kinnick, defensive Zama take Japan titles

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Kinnick's balanced scoring attack proved more than a match for E.J. King's boys and primary weapon Dyson Robinson.

Kaine Roberts led five players in double figures with 17, and the Red Devils led by as many as 26 points to beat King 73-53 in Friday's final of the weather-shortened DODEA Japan basketball tournament. Robinson had 38 points in the loss.

"When we play a balanced lineup (and attack), other teams have a problem figuring out who to stop," said coach Robert Stovall of Kinnick, which beat the Cobras for the second time in three tries this season. "That's what helps our team a lot. We balance it out."

In the second half, the Red Devils pulled away behind Rodrick Bell, who scored 12 of his 14 points in the last two periods. Kaine Roberts hit a driving layup with 3:03 left to give Kinnick its biggest lead, 71-45, with 3:03 remaining.

In a defensive struggle in the girls' final, Chloe Sterling scored

all 14 of her points and Kirari Smith eight of her 10 in the first half, and Zama held four-time defending champion Yokota scoreless for more than 16 minutes in a 35-16 victory.

"I was thoroughly disappointed on the offensive end," Zama coach Daisy Whitaker-Hayes said. "The defense worked very well, (but on offense) we had the opportunities, but we weren't focused on making the shots."

The tournament was shortened to two days due to a forecast threat of snow and other inclement weather over the weekend in northeastern Japan. DODEA Pacific chief of staff Todd Schlitz said.

Weather also forced two Japan wrestling tournaments to either be postponed or scaled back.

Saturday's Kanto Plain finals at St. Mary's has been delayed, with officials looking to reschedule on Wednesday.

Edgren endured its first snow day in five years Friday, forcing Japan district officials to turn around Zama's and Yokota's team buses bound for Misawa Air Base for a Saturday meet.

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DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

King's Dyson Robinson skies for a shot against Kinnick's Justice Jackson and Davion Roberts during Friday's DODEA Japan Tournament boys final. The Red Devils won 73-53.

Julius Randle led the Pelicans with 21 points, and Jrue Holiday added 15. Anthony Davis had 14 points and 16 rebounds in his second game returning to the lineup after seeking a trade.



## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# Barrett, threes lead No. 2 Duke past No. 3 UVA

By HANK KURZ JR.  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — RJ Barrett got it started, Zion Williamson filled in some gaps and Cam Reddish added a late flurry.

In No. 2 Duke's latest installment of Freshmen Gone Wild, all three — and point guard Tre Jones — had starring roles Saturday night as the Blue Devils used an early barrage of three-pointers to stun No. 3 Virginia, and then held off the Cavaliers, 81-71, to sweep the season series.

"That really sets the tone for us and we played defense today as well," Barrett said of the fast start that saw him make five three-pointers before the game was 12 minutes old, helping Duke quiet a sold-out John Paul Jones Arena with the host Cavaliers already trailing 29-15.

"We were just in our zone and it's great to see when our team is like that," Barrett said.

He finished with 26 points, Williamson had 18 and Reddish had 17, including three 3-pointers early in the second half.

"It's any given night of all of us," Reddish said after finishing 5-for-8 from beyond the arc, with three coming in a span of less than three minutes. "We all can

do a mixture of everything and it just depends on who gets found, who's open and it's a simple as that."

Duke finished 13 for 21 from three-point range after making just 2 of 14 in a 72-70 victory against Virginia on Jan. 19.

"It's a little bit deflating when they're banging threes and you're trying to keep them out of the lane," Virginia coach Tony Bennett said.

Bennett thought his team might have over-adjusted by focusing too much on trying to close off the inside, but his counterpart, Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, thought it was at least as much a case of his own players recognizing the strategy change.

"My players felt it," Krzyzewski said. "That little bit of room — they took advantage of it without any kind of coaching."

The Blue Devils (21-2, 9-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) ended Virginia's 13-game home winning streak and won their third straight in Charlottesville. They now share first place with North Carolina and have two games left with the Tar Heels.

Kyle Guy and Ty Jerome each scored 16 to lead Virginia (20-2, 8-2), which plays the No. 8 Tar Heels on Monday night.



MARK GORMUS, RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH/AP

From left, Duke's Zion Williamson, RJ Barrett, and Cam Reddish celebrate during Saturday's game against Virginia in Charlottesville, Va. Barrett made five three-pointers in the first half of the Blue Devils' 81-71 victory, finishing with a game-high 26 points.

## Recruits: Vols just second team since '05 to reach No. 1 without any top-100 prospects

### FROM BACK PAGE

basketball's ahead of us. It's not going to be easy, but they're competitive. Where we are, they deserve the credit."

Barnes arrived at Tennessee in 2015 as the Vols' third coach in as many seasons. The Vols went a combined 31-35 in Barnes' first two seasons before winning a share of the Southeastern Conference title last year. Now they're in position to contend for the first Final Four berth in school history.

Tennessee's highest-rated prospect according to composite rankings of recruiting sites compiled by 247Sports is freshman D.J. Burns, who is redshirting after being ranked 108th in his class.

The only other team since 2005 to reach No. 1 in Associated Press Top 25 without any top-100 high school recruits as determined by the 247Sports Composite is the 2015-16 Oklahoma squad that featured Buddy Hield and reached the Final Four. 247Sports' data doesn't include the complete recruiting rankings of college rosters from before 2004-05.

"We know we can play with anybody," junior guard Jordan Bowden said. "Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work."

Tennessee's rise shows how Barnes has changed the narrative that surrounded him at Texas, where he coached future NBA All-Stars Kevin Durant and LaMarcus Aldridge but got fired despite leading



JAY KIMBROUGH, THE DAILY TIMES/AP

Tennessee forward Grant Williams is the SEC's leading scorer at 19.9 points per game after choosing the Volunteers over Ivy League and mid-major programs.

the Longhorns to 16 NCAA Tournament appearances in 17 seasons.

"When he got the Tennessee job, his reputation was recruiter and not necessarily that great a coach or developer," said Jerry Meyer, the director of recruiting at 247Sports. "Man, has he flipped that script at Tennessee."

Meyer credits Barnes' ability to identify ideal fits for Tennessee as proof of his recruiting prowess, even without a top-100 prospect on his roster.

"I think the truly great recruiting stories are these kinds of situations," Meyer said. "I'd throw Texas Tech as a good example with Tennessee, of finding those under-the-radar type guys. Wichita State did it when they were really good with (Gregg) Marshall.

"To me, those are your greatest recruits. Those are evaluators, put it that way. They do a great job of evaluating and not just following the herd or looking at numbers from recruiting services or rankings."

Barnes' evaluation skills are evident from the players brought in for a recruiting weekend that helped build Tennessee's program.

The four players visiting that weekend were Jordan Bone, De'Riante Jenkins, Josh Okogie and Grant Williams. Only Jenkins was ranked higher than 171st.

"I remember Jordan Bone was the first

that said 'I want to be a part of this,'" Barnes said of the third-year starter who leads the SEC in assists (6.6).

Williams, who chose Tennessee over Ivy League and mid-major programs, is the SEC's leading scorer (19.9). Okogie played two seasons at Georgia Tech before getting drafted in the first round and Jenkins is VCU's second-leading scorer.

Barnes' ability to develop talent became obvious from the progress of former Tennessee guard Kevin Punter Jr., recruited by ex-Vols coach Donnie Tyndall. After Barnes suggested he alter his shooting mechanics, Punter watched his scoring average skyrocket from 10.3 in 2014-15 to 22.2 in 2015-16.

"I can't talk about our foundation without mentioning him," Barnes said. "He was really the lead guy on it."

The team's success has helped Tennessee attract more heralded recruits. Tennessee's freshman class next season will include guard Josiah James, ranked 16th in his class according to the 247Sports Composite.

As higher-rated prospects gravitate to Tennessee, the Vols want to make sure they sign guys just as coachable as their current players.

"What we have to make sure of is we don't change our formula just to be sexy," Lanier said.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Roundup

# Teske, Michigan outlast Wisconsin

## Wolverines avenge earlier loss to Badgers

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan avenged its loss to Wisconsin last month — and coach John Beilein wants no part of a rubber match against the Badgers.

"Ethan Happ said to me after the game: 'I hope to see you again this season,'" Beilein said. "No Ethan. I don't want to see you again the rest of my life."

Happ had 18 points and 11 rebounds for No. 19 Wisconsin, but Michigan's Jon Teske more than held his own inside, and Charles Matthews scored 16 of his 18 points in the second half to lift No. 7 Wolverines to a 61-52 victory Saturday. Teske had 17 points and 12 rebounds.

The Big Ten-leading Wolverines (22-2, 11-2) won despite going 10 for 10 from three-point range in the second half. Michigan led 51-50 in a tight defensive struggle before pulling away with eight straight points.

The Badgers (17-7, 9-4) had their six-game winning streak snapped. That run began with a 64-54 win over then-undefeated Michigan last month.

"A little bit of a flip of the script, in terms of them making plays in the last two minutes," Wisconsin coach Greg Gard said.

Happ had 26 points and 10 rebounds in the January meeting, and it looked like he was headed to a similar output. He dominated early and had 8 points by half-time, but the 7-foot-1 Teske began containing him, and Happ picked up a crucial third foul early in the second half.

"Just keep my motor running and try to deny his easy catches," Teske said. "If he catches it on the post, it's very easy for him to score there."

**TCU 92, No. 17 Iowa State 83:** Kendrick Davis scored a season-high 22 points, and TCU stunned Iowa State for its first road win over a Top 25 team in 21 years.

Kouat Noi, Desmond Bane and Alex Robinson each had 17 for the Horned Frogs (17-6, 5-5 Big 12). They used a staggering 27-4 first-half run to blow past the beleaguered Cyclones and greatly boost their NCAA Tournament chances.

**No. 1 Tennessee 73, Florida 61:** Grant Williams scored 16 points as the host Volunteers completed a season sweep of the Gators and extended their school-record winning streak to 18 games.

Tennessee (22-1, 10-0 SEC) owns the longest active winning streak of any Division I team. This also marks the biggest winning streak of Rick Barnes' 32-year head coaching career.

Florida (12-11, 4-6) has lost three straight and four of its last five.

**No. 4 Gonzaga 94, Saint Mary's 46:** Brandon Clarke scored 24 points and blocked three shots as the host Zags earned their 14th consecutive victory.

Rui Hachimura added 18 points and Filip Petrushev had 15 for Gonzaga (23-2, 10-0 West Coast), which is likely to move up in The AP poll after No. 3 Virginia lost to No. 2 Duke earlier Saturday.

**No. 5 Kentucky 71, Mississippi State 67:** PJ Washington scored 23 points, Keldon Johnson added 13 and the Wildcats held on for a road win.

Kentucky (20-3, 9-1 Southeastern Conference) has won 10 straight games since losing to Alabama in its conference opener on Jan. 5. The Wildcats had to work for this one after an 18-point lead dwindled to one possession with 1:18 left, but the Bulldogs weren't able to score again.

Mississippi State (16-7, 4-6) led 17-15 midway through the first half, but Tyler Herro nailed a contested three-pointer to give Kentucky the lead. The Wildcats never trailed again.

**No. 6 Nevada 91, New Mexico 62:** Trey Porter had 20 points and nine rebounds as the host Wolfpack avenged their only loss of the season by dominating the Lobos.

In a reversal of its 27-point defeat last month, Nevada (23-1, 10-1 Mountain West) jumped to a 25-4 lead and led 51-26 at halftime.

**No. 8 North Carolina 88, Miami 85 (OT):** Kenny Williams hit the go-ahead three-pointer with 2:08 left in overtime to help the host Tar Heels hold off the Hurricanes.

Freshman Coby White matched his season high with 33 points for North Carolina (19-4, 9-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), which survived a wild finish filled with big shots by both teams.

Chris Lykes had his own huge game for the Hurricanes (10-13, 2-9), scoring 19 of his 27 points with five three-pointers after halftime.

**No. 9 Michigan State 79, Minnesota 55:** Nick Ward had 22 points and Matt McQuaid scored a season-high 18, leading the Spartans past the visiting Gophers.

Michigan State (19-5, 10-3 Big Ten) ended a three-game losing streak, its longest since 10 years.

**Clemson 59, No. 11 Virginia Tech 51:** Shelton Mitchell scored 22 points with a career-best five three-pointers and the host Tigers outlasted the Hokies for their fourth straight victory.

Virginia Tech (18-5, 7-4 ACC) made just one field goal in the



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

Michigan center Jon Teske reacts after a foul and a basket during Michigan's 61-52 defeat of Wisconsin on Saturday. Teske finished with 17 points and 12 rebounds.

final 8:33 in losing consecutive games for the first time this season.

Clemson (15-8, 5-5) is finally looking like the team that surprised many when it reached the NCAA Tournament's round of 16 last March.

**No. 13 Kansas 84, Oklahoma State 72:** Devon Lawson scored 25 points, Ochai Agbajir hit five threes and had 23 points, and the host Jayhawks shrugged off a slow start to beat the Cowboys.

Devon Dotson added 18 points while Mitch Lightfoot provided a big lift off the bench for Kansas (18-6, 7-4 Big 12), which was playing its first game without starting guard Lagerald Vick. He left the team earlier in the week to deal with personal issues.

**No. 15 Purdue 81, Nebraska 62:** Carsen Edwards scored 27 points and Grady Eifert added a season-high 16 as the host Boilermakers rebounded from a lach-luster first half to pull away.

Purdue (17-6, 10-2 Big Ten) has won eight straight overall and 14 in a row at home.

**No. 22 Florida State 80, No. 16 Louisville 75 (OT):** Mfondu Kabengele scored 22 points and the host Seminoles erased a 10-point second-half deficit to force overtime, then knocked off the Cardinals.

Terance Mann added 20 points for FSU (18-5, 6-4 Atlantic Coast Conference), which made 11 of 12 free throws in overtime to wrap up its fifth straight win.

Christen Cunningham scored 20 points, including 13 in the first half for Louisville (17-7, 8-3).

**No. 18 Texas Tech 66, Oklahoma 54:** Davide Moretti scored 14 points to help the Red Raiders roll to a road win.

Jarrett Culver had 13 points and Matt Mooney and Brandone Francis each added 11 for Texas Tech (19-5, 7-4 Big 12), which stayed within striking range of conference leader Kansas State.

Rashard Odomes scored 14 points and Brady Manek had 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Sooners (15-9, 3-0), who lost their fourth straight.

**No. 21 LSU 83, Auburn 78:** Tremont Waters had 19 points and 10 assists and the host team overcame a sluggish start.

Skyler Mays had 20 points for LSU (19-4, 9-1 SEC), which bounced back from its lone conference loss with a pair of league victories heading into its toughest road test yet at fifth-ranked Kentucky.

Jared Harper scored 25 for Auburn (16-7, 5-5), which saw its three-game winning streak snapped.

**No. 23 Buffalo 90, Central Michigan 76:** Jeremy Harris had 19 points, eight rebounds and six assists, and the host Bulls rallied to beat the Chippewas.

CJ Massinburg scored 18 points and Dontay Caruthers added 16 as Buffalo (20-3, 8-2 Mid-American Conference) won its 22nd game in a row at Alumni Arena.

**American 71, Army 68:** Jacob Boonyasith had a season-high 20 points as the host Eagles edged the Black Knights.

Stacy Beckton Jr. had 15 points, seven rebounds and three blocks for American (13-10, 7-5 Patriot League).

Matt Wilson had 14 points for the Black Knights (11-14, 6-6), whose losing streak reached four games.

**Lehigh 83, Navy 57:** Pat Andree had 22 points as the host Mountain Hawks rolled past the Midshipmen.

Andree made 5 of 7 three-pointers. He added seven rebounds.

Lance Tejada had 17 points for Lehigh (16-7, 9-3 Patriot League).

Hasan Abdullah had 14 points and seven rebounds for the Midshipmen (8-15, 5-7). Josiah Strong added 10 points.

# Howard, Marquette squeak past Villanova

By JIM HOENR  
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Markus Howard provided the offense and this time around, Marquette's defense put on just enough pressure at the end.

Howard scored 38 points and the 10th-ranked Golden Eagles hung on at the buzzer, edging No. 14 Villanova 66-65 Saturday and handing the Wildcats their first Big East Conference loss.

Marquette (20-4, 9-2) was coming off a one-point loss to St. John's in which it failed to get a final shot.

The Golden Eagles, who led by 15 early in the second half, took a 66-63 edge on two free throws by Howard with 53 seconds left. Phil Booth answered with a floater in the lane that made it a one-point game.

Jermaine Samuels then stripped Howard on the ensuing possession with 14 seconds left. After a timeout, Booth drove on Sacar Anim but was cut off underneath by reserve forward Ed Morrow.

Booth passed the ball back to Samuels, who missed an off-balance jumper from the left side as time ran out.

"We just wanted to make it tough for him, obviously bring him to a crowd," Anim said. "We really wanted to force him to drive where I knew I was going to have some help. We were able to get him down there and Ed made a big time play."

Villanova coach Jay Wright said the last play didn't develop the way he hoped.

"We were just running a ball screen and trying to put it in Phil's hands, just let him make a decision," Wright said. "We trust him to make a decision."

"I don't think we gave him great options. I don't think his teammates were really out there. We got congested under the rim. It's one of those things. I think they thought he was going to shoot it so they started to go for the offensive rebound instead of giving him an option," he said. "I don't have a problem with that. When you get to that point, you've got to let the players make the decisions." Booth had 19 points and Eric Paschall 17 for Villanova (19-5, 10-1), which had won 11 straight since a 74-71 loss to Kansas on Dec. 15. The Wildcats had won nine of the 10 previous games against Marquette.

Howard, the Big East's leading scorer, hit 13 of 24 shots, including 5-for-11 on threes. He made all seven of his free throws.

Anim added 18 on 8-for-10 shooting for the Golden Eagles.

Marquette bounced back from its first home loss of the season, 70-69 to St. John's on Tuesday when Shamane Ponds scored the game-winning basket on a drive with 16 seconds left.

## SPORTS



## One last medal

Vonn captures bronze in final race of career » **Sports briefs, Page 26**

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL



Tennessee guard Jordan Bowden dunks against Florida during the second half of Saturday's game in Knoxville, Tenn. The Volunteers won 73-61, extending their NCAA-best winning streak to 18 games.

WADE PAYNE/AP

## Unheralded Volunteers

No. 1 Tennessee keeps winning despite lack of top-100 recruits

By STEVE MEGARREE  
Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.

The top-ranked Tennessee Volunteers are winning without any top-100 recruits on their roster.

They have blossomed into national contenders, winning 18 straight games — the longest active winning streak of any Division I team.

"There's some programs around the country that could never get by with recruiting the class that we brought in that's having the success we're having right now, because their media and their fan base would be screaming that we're not recruiting the best players in the country," Tennessee coach Rick Barnes said.

Those players have been good enough to get Tennessee (22-1, 10-0 SEC) atop the rankings.

This also marks the biggest winning streak of Barnes' 32-year head coaching career, surpassing the 17-game string that started Texas' 2009-10 season.

"I appreciate how hard they've competed," Barnes said after Saturday's 73-61 win over Florida. "I appreciate the fact they do want to get better, and we can get better. I think they believe, like our coaching staff, that our best

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**'I think they believe, like our coaching staff, that our best basketball's ahead of us. It's not going to be easy, but they're competitive. Where we are, they deserve the credit.'**

Rick Barnes

Tennessee coach, after his team's 73-61 win over Florida on Saturday, the Vols' 18th straight.



Barnes

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